貴族のお坊ちゃんだけど、世界平和のために勇者のヒロインを奪います

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Prologue

Prologue

In front of a boy whose eyes are hidden underneath his hair, inside the classroom of a certain school, a certain fatty expressed a laughing smirk.

「Kufufu~…… Rin, it's been so long. Fufufu~, such a girly smell. 」

Drawing his sultry face towards the nape of Rin's neck, he sniffed her fragrant smell.

「Iyaa!! Save me! Onii-chan!」

A young girl with a lovely face, and light blue hair, dressed in maid-attire, held out an arm to the the boy with hidden eyes, asking for help.

「You fat-bastard! Return Rin-chan!」

「I refuse. To begin with, there's no reason to return her to you. Reason being, because she is my slave.」

The collar attached to her neck was shown. The boy with hidden eyes, in bitterness, ground his teeth.

「Damn… Curse you, money-grubbing Ritone.」

「Hmph~… However, I'm not a demon. Once you've acquired The Sword of Heroes『Artemis』, then I will release Rin.」

Having heard those words, fear began to show on the face of the boy with hidden eyes.

「Bu-but over there a monster is…」

「 I'm being nice, otherwise I wouldn't have been merciful enough to have left you with some hope. If you'd have said no…..」

The fattie who is called Ritone, lewdly licked Rin's neck.

「Kya~~~!!!! Iya!」

Seeing the young girl distort in disgust, the boy became determined.

「OK, just you wait!」

The boy dashed out of the classroom and headed towards the mountains where the sword was sealed.

In front of the shrine

「Err… I only have to pull out the sword right?」

Having reached here after fighting the monsters, covered in wounds, the boy went up to the altar, and pulled out a bright star-like sword.

Seeing how the sword came out so easily, the boy expressed a satisfying smile.

「I did it. because of Rin-chan will!-」

Just as the boy had sensed, the ground in front of him had already begun to crack, and all of a sudden, a deep rift appeared.

「Guwahaha! I am Demon Emperor Dark Kaiser! Thou who bears the blood of the heroes. You have my gratitude for releasing me!」

「 As the one who draws the blood of the brave heroes, I do not fear you…」

「 In gratitude for releasing the seal, thou shalt not be killed by my own hands. Go and live a quiet and fulfilling life, in a place where our eyes should never meet.」

As the following seconds passed, tens of thousands of demons suddenly appeared. As they flew up to the sky an incredibly huge demon plunged out of the rift, and began to follow them as they flew away.

「I…… I never wanted…」

The boy hung his head dumbfounded.

The opening screen appeared as music resounded.

「…It was quite ordinary.」

While thinking these things, a growing fat man played the game system.

This「A Happy Future With You」Adult RPG game.

At first, the boy's name was expected to be「Kichiku」or Kii but when reading it conversely at the heart of it, it was said to be「Netori」, though at the start, it was pretty ordinary.
[TN:一部では「キチク」もしくはキーとなる少年の名前を逆に読んで「ネトリ」と言われているほど心にくるといわれていたので期待していたが、最初の始まりは平凡だった。Kind of confused here.]

「……Not yet. I will advance next.」

The man proceeded with the scene. When returning to the classroom, a conversation started with Ritone.

「Gufufu. Excellent, you brought it. Now choose, the sword or the woman…」

「Ku…」

The Sword of Heroes『Artemis』or『Rin』which to choose? These were the choices.

「I'm worried… However, there might be a companion event later. The sword!」

Refused to hand over the sword.

「…… Cruel……」

「Gufufufu. Now, Rin is mine. There……」

Pulling the chain attached to the collar, they were taken somewhere. The following scene became an adult scene of Ritone and Rin.

「……Te! Suddenly the heroine is like this!」

The man was surprised at the adult scene of the heroine riding the large package all of a sudden.

「Surely, with this……」

The man expected, the girl who he used to get along well with in school, would definitely be enslaved to Ritone.

That way, the journey could be advantageous and easy if he selected the item for the exchange.

If he chose the item, the game would've advanced quickly but also lonesome with no companions.

If the girl had been chosen, although the game would have been fully loaded with happy events, with the number of companions increasing, the game would've continued to be difficult.

「Indeed… there are various ways to enjoy this. With this it will be close.」

Unnoticed, the man was gradually getting addicted to the game, enjoying the various situations.

Even if you defeated the Demon Emperor Dark Kaiser, the protagonist would get pierced by a deserting heroine in the final ending, dying a regrettable death.

Time was rewound each time by the divine protection of the Goddess, Verdandi, to the starting point.

「Haa…Haaa… Finally it's here!」

The growing fat man, having remembered his hardships, was overcome with deep emotions.

Having suffered hardships from recapturing the 6 heroines from Ritone, and all the Legendary items that Ritone monopolized, the Demon Emperor Dark Kaiser was finally defeated with everyone's cooperation.

Before the hero's party, having received the true ending, trembling with joy, the boy stood alone.

「Ritone… You Bastard! How many had to die.」

「Truly, everything was destroyed…The demons are overflowing through, people who are refugees are enslaved, weapons are bought and sold so my home gains worth. The obstructions are gone.」

Ritone's face turned dark.

「You! For the sake of these things!」

The boy who became a hero and the six heroines poised their weapons, bursting with rage.

「Good… I will show you. The Demon Emperor isn't able to be defeated so easily. Summoning『Great Demon Lord Dark Millennium」！」

When Ritone finished chanting the summoning magic, the air distorted and a huge demonic shape appeared.

「AHAHA… Kill them- What?」

The Demon grabbed Ritone's body, lifting him.

「Ba, Fool, not me. Them! Gya~!」

Roles reversed, Ritone was eaten by the Great Demon Lord.

「…」

The heroines frightened, they nestled closer to the protagonist.

Patting them kindly, the hero smiled.

「Okay. If all seven of us combine our power, we can surely bring down this Great Demon Lord.」

「Un!」

The six heroines smiled sweetly.

「Everybody, lets go!」

The hero's party challenged the Great Demon Lord to fight. After the fierce battle, he was at last defeated.

「Fuu~…. he's finally down.」

The result of the fierce battle which lasted 30 minutes, ended with the Great Demon Lord's defeat, receiving a true happy ending.

「I did my best, it worked.」

Talking to himself, he fell onto the bed, suddenly dying as everything turned empty.

「……What will I become hereafter?」

Though he originally worked for a bank, he retired due to interpersonal problems as per requested, having hunted for a job a long time… he later became absorbed in gaming becoming a NEET.

It wasn't possible to return to his parents now, everyday he intently escaped reality.

His chest collapsed, becoming severely painful due to his lack of faith for the future…

「Haa…Haa… This is different! This!」

Chest painfully tightened.

「Certainly, Heart Attack!」

The man's consciousness fell into darkness.

「Hello. I am the Goddess Verdandi. Uhm, I have a favor to ask of you.」

Consciousness returned, waking to a white space. A pure angelic voice was heard.

「Verdandi, from the BRUTAL game?」

「 Yes… Actually, the game that the creator made is the foreseen future of my world, it's a somewhat troubling situation.」

「Troubling situation? Will the hero defeat the Great Demon Lord and reach a happy ending?」

「There is a continuation…」

The Goddess Verdandi began to explain what continued after the end credits.

The ending was too hopeless, the man became speechless.

「So after all, the foolish hero only had strength… was the political situation impossible? Reality is such a harsh world.」

「Yes… the way things are going, my world will not destroyed by the Demon Lord but the hero. I want to avoid this situation someway.」

With the goddess' eyes sincerely pleading , the man's heart was moved.

However, the man couldn't accept it.

「I sympathize with you. However, I'm not good at anything.」

「No. Acquiring financial knowledge in the modern world, knowing the pain of a person, I believe it will definitely change the future for the better. Please, reincarnate to a new person, and please save the world.」

The goddess bowed to the man.

「…I understand. In any case this body will die. If possible, I'll do it.」

「Thank you. Then, your soul will be sent to my world. Because there is a connection with the formal world, though there are restrictions to the inherent magic originally, please try to cheat it somehow.」

With a shake of the goddess' staff, the man's consciousness, shrouded in darkness, began to shine.

Chapter 1

Roswell Village

Twelve years have passed.

There, in the vast Kingdom of Rosalia, is a village called Roswell, located within the Golden-Duke Shylock's Territory,…

Was a boy being scolded by the Village Chief while he was doing some of his daily labors.

「Ritone, you slacker! Carry this wheat to the flour mill, quickly!」

A whip suddenly lashes out towards the boy.

「……Gu!」

Unintentionally, the boy shot a nasty glare towards the village chief.

「What's with that look of yours, boy?! To think that a newly-hired peasant-boy would have this kind of attitude… Tsk, if you're dissatisfied with your new job, then, you can just quit!」

The bald village chief continued to shout at the small boy.

「So-Sorry.」

The boy of 12 years old, shouldered a sack filled with heavy wheat, for him to carry to the water-mill by the river.

The boy called Ritone had no strength, and on top of that, was emaciated, so it was inevitable that he could only carry them one at a time for every round trip.

While he carried the sack of wheat, the village-brats who were playing by the near river suddenly approaches him.

「Peasant's child!」

「Outsider!」

「Get out of this village!」

They poured continues insults at him to their hearts content, and beat him as they liked.

When they were satisfied and had went away, they left the sack broken, with the

wheat scattered onto the ground.

「I'll get scolded by the village chief again…」

While holding back his tears, he returned to the village chief's house.

There, a young, pretty-girl with light blue hair was alone.

「Ritone onii-chan… Were you bullied again? Are you okay? 」

Rin, a 10 year old girl, treated Ritone very kindly. She's the village chief's daughter, and a childhood friend of Ritone. Being one of the heroines from the BRUTAL game, she had the role
of the younger sister.

「I-It's fine… I'm OK.」

「But you're hurt. Look, heal! 」

A gentle blue light poured out from Rin's hand as it covered Ritone's wound, stopping the bleeding.

「Thank you.」

「Don't mention it. However, this spell is amazing. Thank you for teaching it to me.」

Rin acted like a small puppy. Ritone had been nice to her ever since she was young, causing her to become attached to him.

Ritone, in order to draw out her magic power, trained her with a water-type spell. There even reached a point where she could use the healing spells quicker than usual.

While seeing Rin hop around like Powa-Powa with a smile beaming on her face, Ritone was deep in thought.

(Originally, Ritone treated Rin as a mere pet, and ●●● even ××× to the point until…… where she breaks. No matter how one thinks about it, He won't be capable of doing those sorts of cruel things now.)

Rin admired Ritone as an onii-chan, and Ritone also truly loved her as a younger sister, an 18+ prohibited act couldn't be done. The fact that someone like that could become a hero, he would rather have chosen death.

「Rin alone, is someone I'd never consider to handover!」

Ritone, with hostility in his heart, aimed for the hero who he had yet to meet.

Somehow, the work of carrying the wheat ended as well. He received one bag of wheat then headed home.

Ritone's home lies at the end of the village boundary, it was a worn-out shack.

「Bring me sake!」

From the house, a drunk voice was overheard. The voice came from his father, Zouk.

「You… There isn't any more sake. Apart from that, Ritone works too. Give up your dream of becoming a knight, and do some field work like me…」

「Annoying! Because of us running away, I missed my chance of becoming a knight. Some girl of nobility! This good-for-nothing! 」

With a snarl, the sound of a *BASH* echoed.

「AH!」

Hearing the sound of someone falling, Ritone panicked and ran to the house.

「Mother… Are you alright? 」

He helped up his collapsed mother, Josephine.

「Y-Yes. I'm alright. Uuu…」

Saying「I'm alright」, was the nice mother that was powerless within these lands. She began to cry feebly.

「……」

Ritone who was accustomed to this kind of abuse, started glaring at Zouk. Magic then rose from his whole body, making his father feel intimidated.

「W-what is it, you damn brat? What are you doing?!」

He tried taking out the rusty ragged sword childishly, but, being drunk, he struggled and couldn't leave the wall.

「I pray to the heavens. Send me from another dimension, a servant. Come Slime! 」

The staff was pointed at his waist as the spell of summoning was recited.

「Uwaaa!」

After it gathered, the slime appeared from the magical square. Zouk began to run away from it, as he yelled in fear.

「Mother. That person will be punished. -Eh? 」

Ritone looked back at his mother, and saw her crying face filling-up with tears.

Gently, she then strikes Ritone's cheek.

「…」

「Haven't I told you that you weren't supposed to use summoning magic!」

「Why? Wasn't it mother who taught it to me? 」

Ritone with a stricken cheek, pouted as he resisted.

「Sigh…」

「Please, do be more wary of your actions next time, and as for your summoning-magic, I would prefer that you only use it in case of emergencies, so that you will be able to protect yourself. If they ever find out that you came from the house of darkness which can summon demons, what do you think would happen? 」

Said the mother with a desperate expression.

As for today, Ritone couldn't say anything, specially on this night, the【Blue Moonlit Night】a night which only happens several days a month.

It was said that demons were mostly active during these nights, so it's common that almost everyone shuts themselves in their houses and would quickly go to sleep.

However, the drunken man walked alone to the end of the village.

「Hiku~… Damn! Curse that shit that scrawny demon. Someday I'll boil your eyes out…」

Although he appeared smart while grumbling, his voice lacked any power.

Though what truly lied in his feelings, was the fear that he felt for his own son.

「Damn… Was it because we were young and in-love that a measly brat like that came out?

That time, if I hadn't fallen for the noble-girl, I would have become a knight by now…」

Zouk said with much regret. Though he was not able to cast his own shadow, a long time ago, he was a warrior with remarkable ability, in a territory far from this village. And because of the tournaments that he had participated and won, he was able to join the government services of the Shylock family, where darkness was ruled. If it had gone in his favor, from being a soldier to becoming a knight, he would've risen through

the ranks. Instead, he was chosen of all things, to serve as the daughter's guard. The young couple fell deeply in love despite their differences in status. In order to escape from Eagle Shylock, who was the current head, they've decided that they would run, and return to their birthplace.

Having faced that, the two people exchanged no warm words, gradually, their passion failed to live up to the expectations of their birthplace.

「Damn!」

While the man was spitting and feeling giddy, the surroundings suddenly darkened.

「What?」

Instinctively, the eyes of the man looked up into the sky, a woman's appearance, that of an adult, wearing a black mantle, entered his eyes.

「W-who's t-this!」

Instinctively backing away, the man listened from a distance.

「Rude. It's nice to see you tonight. I am Demon Empress Rin Kaiser. Pleased to make your acquaintance.」

「Re-Really, you, Demon-kin?!」

Even if he tried to escape, it was impossible to move while gazing at that beautiful woman's red eyes.

「Do you know of a boy named Ritone?」

「Ritone is my son…」

Being half asleep and half awake, he answered honestly.

「That's convenient. I would like you to help my husband. Therefore, I have a request for you. For our Demon Family, Ritone is an extremely valuable person. I want him as ***….」

The woman introduced as Rin Kaiser disguised in man's equipment, gently kissed Zouk.

In the attic room of Ritone's house, sleeping on the bed, Ritone grumbled.

「It can't be helped…… It's been trouble ever since I reincarnated.」

Accepting the offer from Goddess Verdandi, he came to this world, born and changed, Ritone had been noted as a villain『Netori Bastard』.

First he was angry, it was best when thinking properly of the person who went against the hero.

「I know everything. What to do to the slave heroines, not to make the Sword of The Valiant, and much more. Recalling the Great Demonic Lord is Matsubi. Fortunately, one of the heroines, Rin, is taken, and the other heroines will gradually become happier……」

Thinking about his delusions alone, he flashed a smirk. His purpose, to swiftly bring the legendary weapons, hand them over to the hero, and create the ending where the Demonic Lord is defeated.

「Ma~, just endure a little more. Starting the BRUTAL game, Ritone is the young master of the rich nobility. Though mother has some circumstance, Grandpa might someday come.」

He talked to himself.

「Grandpa…」

His grandfather is Eagle Shylock.

The richest person and Minister of Finance in this country. Additionally, having the greatest noble title『Gold Rank』.

Even if the hero defeated the demon race one by one and became strong, he still couldn't lay a hand on Ritone, as his influence was too strong.

「Um….. Because the Magic Academy age requirement is 15 years old, these three years will pass by slowly and then I can finally say goodbye.」

While Ritone thought this, an uproar was heard from the center of the village.

「Kya~~~~!」

「Run away!!!」

A scream was heard.

「Something's happening? Perhaps a demon attack? It's dangerous! Rin! 」
Running at full speed, Ritone arrived at the village square.

「GWAaaaaa…… Where is it…」?

In the central plaza, there was a monster attacking the villagers.

「Fool! A ghoul appeared in such a place! It's a Rank C demon! 」

The villagers who were trying to escape, were knocked down one after another.

A ghoul is a former human who was cursed by the Demons of Darkness, they can become ghouls if the human drinks the blood of a demon. Their power is strong, being a Rank C, it is said that only a Saint Knight who accepted training from three different instructors are able to match them in a fight.

There is no one from the villagers that can win.

「Kyaa!」

Rin who ran about, desperately trying to escape, was caught.

「Rin『Summon!』」

Ritone summoned Rin immediately, saving her from the Ghoul by catching her hand.

「Onii-chan, Thank you!」

Rin being princess-held by Ritone, was more than grateful.

「Rin, fall back. This person is no average demon! 」

Putting Rin down behind him, Ritone took out the staff from his waist and confronts the Ghoul.

The Ghoul drooled, as Ritone stared, his eyes burned with hatred.

(Calm and steady… After being born till this day, I have repeatedly trained.「Summons」was given to me, I have to master this power. Now, the results of my training will show!).

He tried to control his tensed heart, as this would be his first actual battle, Ritone swung his staff.

「『Portion Body』Summon!」

Aiming at the Ghoul before his eyes, he used a Summoning magic which he practiced.

「Guoooooo」

Only the right hand of the Ghoul was summoned and fell before Ritone. Blood gushed from the Ghoul’s shoulder like a fountain, dyeing the plaza.

「Damn…… Control is still not good. I aimed at his neck but it was shifted to his arm.」

Although thinking that, he was relieved he was able to neutralize his opponent.

「Onii-chan! You're amazing! 」

Rin at the back, shouted with joy.

「Kuku~……Is that so? 」

Turning back, Ritone embarrassed, scratched his head.

The following instant, the Ghoul that had collapsed like a doll, sprung up.

「GUO!」

In its last effort, the Ghoul flew up and dived, aiming at Ritone's neck. And at the last moment, before being bitten….. A shadowy silhouette thrusts itself between them.

「Guooooo!」

「Guuuuu」

Turned around, Ritone was shocked.

「!!!!!」

There, unable to move, Josephine who suddenly collapses and falls onto the ground.

The Ghoul who had used up all its strength, had also fallen to the ground. The transformation gradually breaks, and Zouk's appearance had returned to normal.

「Mother! Old Man! How…」

Looking at his fallen parents, Ritone was at a loss for words.

Not looking at his father, he carried his mother in his arms.

「Mother… Why……」

「For a parent to protect her child, it's natural……Right? 」

Josephine, with a pained breath, forced a smile.

「Mother… Not like this! Don't Die! 」

「It's disappointing…… I don't have much strength. Be good and listen, under my bed…… There is a letter from father. Pull it out… It's father's ring……」

The ring itself, was a present to Ritone.

「NOO!」

「Don’t be unreasonable child…Ne~ Please……Do this.」

「……Understood. That person, stand back.」

Unnoticed when they came nearby, villagers restrained Ritone.

「W-what…」

「That person was bitten by the Ghoul, she will become a Ghoul. Therefore, there’s nothing we can do but behead it.」

「St-stop……」

「DO IT!!!」

With the villagers, the treatment was done swiftly. For Ritone and Rin, it was not possible for them to watch.

Chapter 2
Divided Destiny

Back at Ritone's shack.

「……Mother……Why did you have to die like that……」

Ritone, who was inside the house, crouched and trembled. Although he had memories of his previous life, the one who birthed him to this world and raised him to this day, was his mother. The death of his mother who he admired deeply, had created a shadow in his heart.

「Onii-chan, pull yourself together.」

At his side, Rin desperately tried to comfort Ritone.

「……I'm alright.」

Rin put up a tough front, even though it was just a bluff to hide their sadness, Ritone rummaged under the bed.

Just like his Mother had said, there was a letter from his Grandfather, Eagle Shylock.

「Dear Father. Against your will, I have eloped with a commoner, perhaps I didn't meet your expectations as a daughter. I lost myself in the moment of passion, neglected my obligations as a noble, and was a fool who knew nothing about the outside world. However, this child whom I bear has committed no crime. Please, raise and receive my child Ritone, I beg of you, please. ~Josephine」

Some words were messy in places and the letter was stained with tears, as if she had been totally lost.

(…… Was it originally her intention to entrust me to Grandpa? At least now I have a chance at being nobility.)

The regret of running away from their house at a young age because of infatuation, and the feelings of a mother who tried to rescue her son from the painful life of a commoner.

(As I thought, love alone is pointless. A happy life cannot exist without a proper foundation. The old man didn't have it in him, so Mother had to suffer. I definitely don't want to become like that. No. I will become a noble!)

Ritone swore as he grasps the ring he received from his mother.

At that time, the door suddenly opened and the Village Chief, together with several

villagers, entered.

「Seize him!」

With that, a surprised Ritone was abruptly tied and pushed to the floor.

「Father! What are you doing to Onii-chan!!?」

「Rin! This boy is not your elder brother. He is the son of a ghoul who attacked the village people, honestly, I never liked this boy's father,
Zouk, in the past at all. After all that guy was a good for nothing with only strength. He ignored me and acted like a representative of this village to the city. Being dismissed as a knight, that defeated dog came back as a ghoul and attacked the village people!」

Hatred covered the village chief's face. The villagers who were restraining Ritone had injuries that were given to them by Zouk.

「……What are you planning to do with me?」
Seeing Ritone, calm while being bound, the village chief was angered even more, as Rin cried and screamed.

「STOP! Release Onii-chan!」

「Hmph! Your parent's weren't liked here, and you are hated even more! For you, a child that came from a mother with a doubtful origin, to put a hand on my lovely Rin. Sell him off to the slave merchants!」

Following the village chief's instructions, Ritone was taken to the underground prison.

「Fufufu… it went well. That person will no longer trust in humans. Even if that person isn't filled with wicked desire now, eventually, he will become a pawn that destroys humanity.」

The woman, Demon Empress Rin Kaiser who was disguised as a man, broke into a grinning smile.

After a while, being overcome by extreme drowsiness.

「Ku… Morning already? No wonder I was sleepy.」

Looking annoyingly at the sinking blue moon, she muttered.

「Demon Emperor… Certainly, if thine hero is worthy of drawing the sword from the seal… Then he will come.」

Laughing loudly, Rin Kaiser vanished.

Unaware of what's happened, Ritone continued to suffer in prison.

At that moment, someone entered the underground prison.

「Onii-chan……」

A girl entered quietly, as she sat down.

「I'm so…… Sorry. That time, If I hadn't raised my voice…… Father wouldn't have done such a thing…… I'm really sorry.」

She bowed to Ritone, sobbing.

「…… Rin, it's not your fault. It was mine because I was careless. At that time, if I had dealt a fatal blow……」

Rin held out one arm between the prison bars and stroked his head gently.

「But!」

「……If I had the power…… To protect the person who is the most important to me.」

Ritone, continued to blame himself rather than Rin.

Though the strategy that Rin Kaiser had planned, succeeded, there was a miscalculation on two points.

One was Rin, an existence that loves him.

Another, is that Ritone does not have the heart of a 12 year old, but has the unusual memories of a 30 year old adult.

Though he was still a child, because he had the mentality of an adult, he admitted his own weaknesses rather than trying to find other causes.

Why did such a tragedy occur? As a result, he intently blamed himself for being the cause, blaming Rin was never a possibility in his mind.

(It can't be helped. The life Ritone's experiencing now is on hard mode. To experience such a thing as a child, wouldn't it distort his personality and be impossible to overcome? However, this would be the flag that would enable him to meet up with his Grandfather. For this upcoming encounter. What attitude should I take at that time……)

While being in jail, Ritone thought of this.

The village chief who captured Ritone, contacted the slave merchants joyfully.

「I want to sell a brat, who disturbed this village, as a slave.」

「Slave?… Did you obtain his parent's permission?」

Indeed, the slave merchant with dark eyes questioned.

「You don't need their permission. His parents are already dead. Anyway, please take this eyesore away quickly.」

「……Understood. At any rate, allow me to see him.」

When the village chief and the man went to the underground prison of the village, a boy was there meditating.

From his body, the magic of darkness rose.

「This person……」

「That is right. Having an unusual magic for a commoner. The price of buying him is expensive.」

Even if the village chief was delightful, the slave merchant was cautious.

「……There are a lot of those who possess magic from having the blood of nobility. This person, could he be one too?」

「This person's father was a commoner who only had brute-strength. Perhaps the mother may have been one, but no one was able to recognize her.
Now please, buy him quickly.」

While the village chief persuaded, Ritone opened an eye.

「……You, are you the slave merchant?」

「Yes, that is right?」

To the boy who wasn't shaken by his presence, the slave merchant was momentarily overwhelmed.

The boy raised his hand silently, and the crest on the ring was shown.

The slave merchants complexion suddenly changed.

「……Village chief, I want to speak alone with this person, just the two of us, is that good?」

「I don't mind. Evaluate him as you please.」

As such, the village chief left the underground prison.

Silence ran between these two people.

「……That ring, where did you get it?」

「It's a memento from my mother. My mother's name is Josephine. My parent's family name is Shylock.」

Hearing that, the slave merchant paled and trembled.

「Su-surely! If, you…Well, you……」

「Please hand this over to Grandfather.」

The letter his mother wrote was passed. The merchant respectfully received it and knelt before the boy.

「Let's get out of here, come together with me.」

「I can't go, I am anything but a young child to no one. I am a delinquent who disturbed this village. Therefore, I can't leave because I don't have any reason to come out of this prison.」

Sitting straight in the cold underground prison, the slave merchant quietly stares, motionless. From his appearance, he certainly felt the boy's grace.

「I understand. I will definitely deliver this letter to your Grandfather-sama.」

The slave merchant stood up, left the village, and went at full speed to the territory's capital.

From Roswell Village, it will require three days to reach the territory's element capital to the main residence of The Golden Duke's House by carriage.

The second city after the Royal Capital is the commercial city, where commoners gather from all over the country.

In the lord's residence, a breath escaped faintly, while a person entered the room.

「Milord, we have an urgent report! Please take a look!」

「Milord is in the middle of a state affair. Do not disturb him.」

「This, this letter!」

Seeing the desperate expression of the tired slave merchant with depleted strength,

the knight received the letter.

「G-good…」

The slave merchant relieved, sank down on the floor.

The letter in the knight's hand was carried to the lord's office.

「An urgent report?」

With wrinkles appearing in his forehead, it is Eagle Shylock who rules this territory.

Disturbing him in the midst of a huge domestic affair is somewhat displeasing.

「Yes, it is impolite, but inadvertently the person pleaded very desperately…」

The knight presented the letter.

「I don't mind. I needed a change of pace.」

Eagle received the letter and read, with a pale face, he began to tremble.

「……Call that slave merchant at once!」

Just as Eagle instructed, the slave merchant is summoned, and the events in Rozwell are told.

Eagle, after listening, is dumbfounded for a while.

「From what I heard…… then, why didn't you bring the boy!」

「It's because, the child is being treated as a criminal, he is being held in a prison and can't leave……」

When the slave merchant looked sorry, Eagle's face looked hurt.

「What a foolish thing…… Do you feel inferior to your parents? Eei~, get him out at once…… No, I will go and receive him. Prepare for departure!」

As Eagle ordered, he hurriedly left before the day ends.

After three days.

In Roswell village, the Knight's group arrives wearing brilliant armor.

It is said that the lord suddenly came to the rural area, all the villagers knelt down to the ground to receive him.

「Your lordship, go-good day to you……」

It's no wonder that the village chief's voice is trembling – even if it were the magistrates, to the lord's eyes, they are nothing more than an underling. To those that haven't met the lord, his existence is like that of being above the clouds.

「……」

Eagle, whom had gotten off the luxurious carriage glances him coldly.

「E-ehh… What business do you have, Eagle Shylock-sama, to come to such a far-away village?」

「A slave who has the「Darkness」magic, he is likely to be of the same family as I. I would like to verify it. Apart from that, I want to have the corpse of the woman who was beheaded on the reports shown to me.」

Seeing the cold face of The Golden Duke Shylock, the Village chief makes a panicking excuse.

「B-b-because the person was bitten by a Ghoul, U-uhm we threw it out in the wilderness outside the village. About this time, the demon should've been eaten…」

「What did you say!」

Golden Shylock face became that of a demon. Because they may get killed if they are impolite, the Knights aid flustered entered in between.

「Milord, we have confirmed this.」

「……Ah, mercy. there must be some misunderstanding……」

Though Golden Shylock prayed to the heaven, it soon changed to despair.

The corpse was take home with the village chief's aid, though there were marks where she was bitten by monsters, the beauty still remained in her face. Seeing her face, The Golden Duke's tears flowed.

「What an unsightly appearance… You fool. That time if you had just listened to what I said… No, if only I had acknowledged it… Such a thing.」

「Golden Duke-sama, do you know this woman?」

When seeing The Golden Duke become like this, the village driven by uneasiness reflexively hears it.

「This woman! Fool! Josephine is my daughter!」

「Hiii!」

The Village chief pales and kneels on the ground.

The village-brats who were bullying Ritone, and the adults who had treated him coldly paled in color. There was a desire to seize and slaughter them right now, but somehow he managed to control himself.

「And, my daughter's child, where is he!」

「Hi~, hii~ I will lead you to him at once…」

「Take me there!」

The anger of The Golden Duke exploded. The Village chief, whilst having a ghastly face, guided him to the underground prison.

Underground prison

Ritone heard the noise of many people walking on the ground and guessed that his grandfather had come.

「After this, there will be a serious matter. I have to create a great first impression.」

Though weakened because he wasn't given meals nor water, he still managed to sit straight and wait.

A short moment later, a proud elderly person entered.

「Are you my grandchild?……」

The elderly person looked straightly at Ritone.

「Yes, this is my first time meeting you. I am called Ritone, Grandfather.」

Ritone looked back at the eyes of The Golden Duke Shylock straightly, and bowed deeply.

After watching each other for a while, suddenly The Golden Duke grinned widely.

「Hmm, even though you possess the hateful blood of a commoner man who enticed my daughter. You certainly are a mage of darkness, darkness that runs in my family…… It seems you've had it hard.」

「Nah, this much is nothing.」

Despite clearly being overworked, having lost a lot of body weight and being wounded

and dirty, he still smiled.

Still having the appearance of a straightened back and facing him, The Golden Duke has a good impression of him.

「HAHAHA, to have that kind attitude in front of me. As expected of my grandchild.」

The Golden Duke smiled delightfully, as the Village chief trembled in the back.

「What are you doing, take out my grandchild out of the prison!」

The panicking Village chief, unlocks the jail with the key. As Ritone stood up, his stomach made a gurgling sound.

「I-I'm sorry. I'm a little bit hungry……」

Thus, Ritone feeling a bit embarrassed as he scratches his head , The Golden Duke spouted.

「Hahaha, what a funny little chap. I like you. You are my grandchild, and thus a rightful successor of the Shylock family. As of today, you will
be introduced as Ritone Shylock!」

「Yes!」

Ritone answered vigorously.

After getting out of the jail and into the bath. Fixing his hair and clothes, Ritone's appearance was very handsome.

Considering the young master's appearance.

The villagers who sees him would tremble in fear, as they bow down and beg for mercy.

Though The Golden Duke looked fondly at Ritone, with a serious face, he gives a long glare to the villagers.

「You bastard, for what you have done to my grandchild, he had to live a rough life. Honestly, I'm extremely furious. Zouk, who's a mere commoner, came to this village having enticed and whilst carrying my daughter.」

「……」

「…… I can overlook the matter by 100 steps. However, deserting my daughter's corpse in the wilderness, having jailed my grandchild, and having the gall to sell him as a slave is another matter!」

「Th-that's, I didn't know!」

「This Village chief dog is selfish!」

「Is that so, up until now Village chief, Ritone was overworked and abused, he was treated bad entirely!」

The large chorus of criticism from the villagers to the Village chief was heated.

「Y-you……」

Even as he tried to answer back, the sword from the knight was pointed at him, having resigned, it became quiet.

As for The Golden Duke who observed the situation, he questioned Ritone.

「So, how do you want to deal with these people. Having enslaved one of the blood from the Shylock family, in a commoner's position, it isn't possible to let this pass.」

Hearing that, Ritone pondered. He certainly has a grudge against the Village chief. Being overworked until now, and almost unlawfully sold as a slave.

But he's still Rin's father.

Looking around the villagers, Ritone troubled, his eyes met Rin who was praying desperately.

(Onii-chan……Father……please let him go.)

Looking at the child who prayed while shedding tears, Ritone realized.

(Now, fate has branched. When thinking properly, the young childhood friend Rin, hated Ritone, such a funny story. It was because, Ritone originally took revenge against the Village chief and its people, that made Rin hate him. If that's the case, what should I do here?)

Suppressing his vengeful heart frantically, his answer is decided.

Ignoring the Village chief, Ritone smiles at Rin.

「……Rin, I will follow my Grandfather. However, it will surely be lonely. Would you come with me?」

「……Is it alright?」

「Aah, Grandfather. She is the Village chief's daughter, her name is Rin. For me, she is the only one who saved me from this living hell, an equal existence to a younger sister.

There are children who will become unhappy due to the crimes from their parents in this world. If so, I would excuse the parent for the success of the child. If Rin comes, then I would excuse the village chief.」

「Is that alright?」

「……Moreover, the tax drops, for each person killed. We would only lose.」

Ritone explained while smiling wryly.

「……Onii-chan……Thank you……」

Rin being saved and full of tears, embraces him.

「I see…… My grandchild, to be so merciful. I'm pleased more and more…… As you heard, all of you, your lives have been saved by my grandchild. Work until you die, pay your taxes, and return this favor. This year taxes will be more than usual.」

「Y-yes.」

The Village chief raised his voice as he knelt on the ground.

Chapter 3
Novice Son

Elemental Territorial Capital

「Uwa~… Amazing, this is my first time seeing so many people.」

Rin, looking at the city from the carriage, cried out in excitement, while Ritone on the other hand, felt anxiety.

「Ahh, yeah me too.」

Ritone answered half-heartedly, and pondered for awhile.

「Onii-chan, you look down. Is your stomach hurting?」

「No… I didn't mean it like that. If possible, I wanted to arrive earlier.」

He observed the city while heaving a sigh.

In cliche stories, a lord's son is usually born, and then gets a cheat ability, or so he thought. But, up until turning 12, he was the child of a certain tenant farmer in a rural area.

In other words, he had no inkling of the world or what it means to be a noble.

Regarding the summoning magic that he learnt from his mother, although he had practiced it as much as possible, his magic was still self-taught.

It was still far from a cheat.

[TN: You can summon the body parts of others… What's stopping you from summoning someone's heart from his body causing a IK.]
[TLC: Too bad it's not a r-18 novel he can summon you know what]

「 I wonder if I could do better from now on.」

「It's alright! Because I'm here!」

Said Rin, trying to encourage him, though Ritone still felt insecure about the future.

The carriage arrived at the Shylock residence shortly after.

「Amazing……」

「Ah, this ain't no mansion, it's totally a castle.」

A reinforced castle surrounded by huge walls.

When the wagon had entered at the gate, hundreds of Knights in tough armor were lined up and ready.

Each held the flag of the house that I belonged to.

「This……」

With such a grand welcome, the anxiety rose higher and higher.

It took 10 minutes from entering the castle gates, and at last they've finally arrived at the inner castle.

「Welcome home, Milord.」

Wearing glasses, the strict aunt said her greetings.

「Kurie, did you call my relatives about the new child?」

「Yes milord, all the representatives of houses of every affiliation have been gathered.」

The aunt named Kurie answered without hesitation.

「This is my grandchild Ritone. The child Josephine left behind.」

「Young lady……」

This, was the first time her face showed sadness.

「This lad's debut will be announced in three days. Prepare for it till then.」

「Yes.」

Kurie and the maids took Ritone.

「Uh-Uhm, I……」

「We have decided for Ritone to employ you as a maid belonging exclusively to him. Please leave it to the head maid.」

This time, a young woman who had housemaid clothes with high stockings appeared and took Rin along.

The struggles of these two people had just begun.

Three days later

「Everyone, we are gathered here today to introduce my Grandchild, the child of

Josephine, Ritone. I recognize this person as her legitimate child in the Shylock family, and after becoming an adult, he will succeed me.」

「I am Ritone Shylock, because of my inexperience, I ask of you to please guide me from now on.」

A grand announcement aside, Ritone drenched in sweat greets them.

Ritone was instantly pierced by hundreds of gazes, like arrows.

「……That is the illegitimate child? Humph! That person does not look like much.」

「Coming out now of all times. If not for that guy, I would have sent my child away for adoption」

About half the glances that pierced Ritone were filled with hostility.

「This boy seems like a fool, let's send my daughter to be his wife……」

「Gufufu~, If I marry him to the Miss, then the debt will be repaid……」

Everyone else thought of using Ritone's position for their personal gain.

(…… As I thought, there are no friendly looks. They either think of me as an obstruction, or a person to utilize. When a child gets thrown into this kind of environment…… of course their personality becomes twisted.)

Even he, who has the mentality of an adult, seemed to wilt under this pressure. What if he slips up? Ritone took a guess that what he saw was the cause of Ritone's distorted personality.

(However…… This is an opportunity. I will firmly remember the faces of both these factions. While Grandfather is alive, they must either be destroyed or be forced to obey. I myself, have to gather up power.)

Ritone made up his resolve.

Everyday, he will diligently study the nobles.

First, was a classroom study of the history of the Shylock family. Necessary etiquette as a noble, and necessary knowledge of the Shylock territory.

Madame Kurie acted the role of the teacher, as expected.

「Well then, first let's talk about the Nobility System.」

The Kingdom is ruled by the King, then the Knights are divided into the【Gold Rank】,

【Silver Rank】,【Copper Rank】,【Iron Rank】,【Tin Rank】ranks. Next we have the Nobles, and then the Commoners and Merchants. Additionally, the demi-humans, which are the Beast-kin, were controlled by the Demon-kin and became enemies but later were turned into slaves by the Kingdom.

「Our Shylock family, when you add together the vassal's territory and farm lands altogether, is around 2.5 million sq. km . North of the territory is the Ashina mountain range, the territory of the Lilliputs whose main source of income are the copper mines. Because of constant rainfall and the cold temperature, there are not many villages in the area. Furthermore, if you go towards the south, you would reach the Fuji mountains. There the mother of dragons, a Mother Dragon, made it's nest.

Ritone learned the knowledge that Kurie-sensei taught. Though he has a rough understanding of the geography from the BRUTAL game, he still had not understood all of the small geographic relations.

「The Shylock Great River flows from the forming of the circumference of the granary area. The Roswell village where you're from, is one of them.」

She explained while showing the map.

「And, there is the Elemental Capital almost in the center of the territory. Furthermore, the river descends down and exits towards the sea.」

Though Ritone saw the map of the Shylock territory, he noticed something strange at the center.

It was stained there with a black smudge.

「Sensei, what about here?」

「That zone has magic accumulating which causes the demons to spawn, humans cannot develop or pass through there. There is only a village for the adventurers who barely hunt demons in the vicinity. Furthermore, in that region there are humans who have turned into demons, demi-humans.」

While seeing the map, Ritone was lost in thought.

「Indeed…… Therefore, here and there, the roads have been cut into parts. So, the way this is made is so these parts may be avoided? That is interesting.」

「It seems the Boss monster is in the area where the most magic accumulates, nobody can accomplish the subjugation of it…… No, there was one person in the past.」

「It's the Hero Artemis?」

Ritone asks, and Kurie nods.

「Yes, because the region where the hero had been was attacked by demons, it is now liberated, that person reached a point where he could live at ease. The descendants of the hero, are the Royal Family of our Roselia Kingdom.」

The cane of Kurie-sensei, pointed to the east of the Shylock territory. There were vast plains there.

「Our Shylock family, is a house of merchants who've fought alongside the hero, and the one's who had prospered. The first priority of this house is always money, and the family businesses apart from this territory of that which we operate, are also moneylenders to our other noble partners.」

Kurie-sensei, this time began lessons concerning the industry of the Shylock family.

「We're moneylenders?……」
[TN: TOP KEK, MC past life was a banker…][Daily: You mean loanshark.]

「Yes, the first king recognized this house for it's privileges. Our house works hard to strive for generation after generation, that it had become the most influential house in the whole kingdom.」

Next, Kurie-sensei presented another map. It showed the position of different figures of the noble houses in the territory which have debts to the Shylock family.

「This much?」

It scatters all over the land of the Roselia country.

「Yes, although sometimes we are accusedly referred to as misers or scrooges, it can't be helped. Ritone is to become the heir of the Shylock family. It is inevitable that you'll receive unjust criticism from now on, but to such poppycock, please pay it no heed.」

Kurie-sensei declared emotionless.

At that time, the door opens, Eagle enters.

「How is it? Are the studies advancing?」

「Yes, Ritone has received education from the young lady it seems, the reading and writing were learned perfectly. Especially, from calculating his magic, it has reached levels that represent a magic academy graduate. Moreover, he studies the class lessons very seriously. The student doesn't have any faults or trouble.」

As usual, Kurie-sensei praises me but I can't tell since there's no change in her expression.

「Is that so? As expected of my grandchild.」

Eagle rejoiced with a foolish expression.

「Uhm…… I want to ask Grandfather, is it true we are moneylenders?」

「It is so.」

「Excuse me, but why? Even in the village I'm from, we had little concern towards gold. We believed that respecting honor, is more valuable than gold……」

Ritone asked cautiously. Eagle returned the question.

「You, what do you think?」

「No, I don't think so. Father wasn't able give up his dreams of becoming a knight, all his successful training became useless and didn't work out. Mother suffered in poverty, and had often quarreled with Father as well.」

Hearing those words, Eagle nodded profusely.

「Is that so?…… Josephine, my daughter, who was raised like a princess, was oblivious to the outside world. Falling in love with a guardsmen with nothing but goodness and strength in his heart. And for that reason hath run away, neither knowing the harsh reality of life. How much do you think I regret?…… Ritone, you who have already suffered hardship at a young age understands this.」

With upcast eyes, he shed tears.

「My home of 2 generations far, is obsessed over fame, but there was a time where we used gold at the time as humble people. After entrusting the gold trade to the nobility, which gave privilege at the time to the merchants, it resulted into repeated dissipation, which shouldered a large debt. I also, as a child, suffered hardships of poverty.」

Like recalling a memory, he talked heartily.

「…… You lord over 2.5 million sq. km?」

「That's right. It's a useless association, the indifferent display of pride towards the nobles, and devouring the merchants with their words. My father introduced some sumptuary edicts when my grandfather died, and confiscated the loan licenses from the merchants to promote new industries in his own trade and territory. Thanks to that, we are where we are now.」

「…… Indeed, therefore our house prospers.」

He looked through the list of houses once more that borrowed from the Shylock

family previously. Surprisingly, a large amount of gold was also lent to the Royal Family.

「That's right, it is a nice opportunity, what an amusing display.」

Eagle guided Ritone to the Shylock Family treasury.

Chapter 4
Baby Dragon

Inside the treasury, several maids were neatly cleaning the vault. Among them, there was a little maid working as if her life depended on it.

「Huh? Rin?」

「Onii-chan!」

As she saw Ritone, Rin approached him with a big smile. In an instant, the chief maid who was in charge of supervising, reprimanded her.

「Hey! Miss Rin. Don't get too familiar with Young Master Ritone by calling him Onii-chan, call him Ritone-sama.」

「Ye, Yes, sorry! Ritone-sama.」

Seeing Rin sulk, Ritone smiled wryly.

「It's alright, call me Onii-chan.」

「But…」

「All of you, please forgive her. Rin is an existence equal to a real sister to me.」

As Ritone said so, the chief maid reluctantly withdrew.

「Haa~, there is no other way is there? That said, Rin, you should know your position. While you're only a newcomer maid, Ritone-sama is the heir of the Shylock House.」

「I understand…」

Looking at Rin sulk once more, Ritone had no choice other than to sigh deeply within.

(This is not going well… If her awareness of our standings grows, it won't be different from a slave. Then, the hero will take her away and…)

Ritone realizing that, pats Rin's head and tells her.

「Rin, I'm new at being a master too, so let's work hard together.」

「I got it, I'm going to work hard too and become a fine maid!」

After being consoled, a smile emerged on Rin's face.

「… She's a great child, isn't she?」

Seeing Rin working hard, Shylock interrupted.

「Yes, if it was not for her, I wouldn't be able to bear my painful childhood. 」

Ritone whispered to Eagle.

「Then, when she starts handling the job of a maid well, I will assign her as your exclusive maid.」

「Yes please, she's my precious family, and also her fate is a heavy one to bear.」

While they were talking about it, Eagle showed him the treasury. Inside of it, aside from the vast amount of gold and silver, there were fine articles of art, legendary equipments and even some kind of magic artifacts.

「This is the collateral I took from the Assiah House: 「The Holy Maiden」」

The maiden was making a gesture as if she was pointing at herself with her finger.

「It looks like she was holding onto something like a jug while pouring something …」

「According to the legends, when you install the Sacred Water Jug, it will gush out copious amounts of water, enough to free the people from the suffering of a drought, but it seems that someone stole it.」

As I was hearing the explanation from Eagle, I remembered about that evil game.

(If I'm not wrong, you get the Sacred Water Jug after defeating the Demon Official Seren. It then leads to an event where you choose between the Sacred Water Jug and a Heroine. Well, right now it doesn't have anything to do with me).

While having that thought, I found among the treasures a completely clear white egg.

「Gra-Grandfather, this is!?」

「Ooh, that one! One time, my father bought it from a certain adventurer after he begged my father to buy the egg from him. Because no one knows what species it belongs to, we just leave it as it is.」

(Hey hey hey… This is really bad! That's the mother dragon's egg!!!)

In the original tale, Ritone put a choker on the dragon's neck and made it his pet, and was boasting about it at school. Then, the hero informed the Mother Dragon about it,

and hearing of it, the Mother Dragon's wrath fell upon and destroyed the entire castle of the Shylock House. With the pretext of rescuing the baby dragon, the hero and his heroines will march into the castle and take the baby, and while they're at it, they will also take all the treasures that the Shylock House had accumulated over many years.

「Grandfather, that's dangerous! Let's return it immediately!」

With the abrupt interruption of Ritone, Shylock was astonished.

「What? Are you saying that this is dangerous?」

「That is the mother dragon's egg. If we keep it this way the egg will hatch and …」

The moment Ritone told his grandfather, a crack appears in the egg.

「Nn? What happened?」

When Eagle turn his head to look, he discovers that the egg's crack is getting bigger.

「Are you kidding me, No! Don't hatch now! I beg you, please hold on a little bit longer!」

Panicking, Ritone tries to hold the egg together, but it is already too late.

「Kyuuuiii!」

The egg completely cracked, and a clear-white dragon was born that day.
Ritone and the dragon made eye contact.

「Kyuuii?」

「Hey, you are wrong! I'm not your father!」

Even though he was trying desperately to explain to the dragon, there is no way in hell that a baby dragon will understand him.

「Kyuuiii!」

The baby dragon happily leaped into Ritone's arms.

「Wow, it's so cute!」

「This is truly cute, isn't it? So this is a baby dragon」

Starting with Rin, all the Shylock House's maids were taking turns to embrace the baby.

Although the baby was crying *Kyui kyui*, he stood still in front of all the maids.

「… It's problematic isn't it?」

「Yes, it is a mess.」

Nevermind the maids, even Eagle and Ritone were having a headache over this.
Who could have thought that the baby dragon, son of the mother dragon, that the prophecies were talking about would be born here. So they have no idea of what to do…

「Humm, there is no other choice. We will have to raise it as a pet and …」

「Grandfather, I think that's not an appropriate decision.」

As Eagle was about to give up and accept everything, Ritone was still showing resistance.

「Why can't we?」

「In few years, that baby will become the eye of the hurricane that will lead the Shylock House to its annihilation!」

Ritone explained that in six years, after hearing from the hero that her baby was abused by the Shylock house, the Mother Dragon, together with her army, will march to the castle and wreck it completely.

「Humm, this is a possible outcome. However, why do you know even the smallest details of it?」

「To tell you the truth, I have the memories of my past iteration. Following the Goddess Verdandi's orders, I was reincarnated into this world with the sole purpose of keeping the hero in check .」

Ritone explained to his grandpa everything he knew.

「Even if you explain it, it's hard to take in so suddenly. That said, you knew that the egg was that of a Dragon. Hummph, so, who is this hero you speak of?」

「… In the game, you can name your character any way you want to, but the official one seems to be Abel. He is the king's illegitimate child.」

「Why do you know that name!?」

「Grandfather, do you recognize him?」

「Yeah… It is the son of a certain troublesome woman. She is maintained by the Seijitsu

Golden-Rank Noble House. I'd always thought that it was weird that they treated her as a guest of honor. Now I get it, though; to think Abel was the illegitimate child of the king… That's big news. If that guy were to awaken the powers of a hero, then who knows what that stupid woman will do.」

Eagle and Ritone, were troubled by this new information.

「… Well from what I heard, the oracle from the goddess that you speak of must be true. Even though the Demon King is revived at some point, eventually, the hero and his mates are going to defeat him isn't it? So, there is nothing to worry about, right?」

「No, the ruin of the world begins after that.」

Ritone, without making any scandal of it, quietly tells Eagle about what the goddess Verdandi told him about the future: the events happening after the defeat of the Demon Emperor, and about the hero's foolish despotic administration.

「Tyrannical rule!?」

「Yes, It is about when the hero and his lovers ascended to the throne. Because the hero and his heroines are all justice lover idiots, and hated the rich and the shark loans, that they forced the rich to pay a heavy tax and prosecuted them; while some idiots that were bearing a heavy debt asked the hero and company to help them with their loans, that lead to issuing the order of canceling all debts. Due to that, all the merchants fled from the kingdom and the the kingdom's economy went bankrupt. This led to an agricultural-centered kingdom that based its ideology on self-sustaining. However, this caused a large scale of promotions, and gave power of the landlords.」

「Due to the destruction of markets, as a way to exchange of goods, people suffered even more than before. People who had low food resources were unable to exchange other goods for food.」

Ritone's face began to cloud.

After that, everything went to a downhill. A dispute among all the individuals of Earth had begun. The landlords ignored the aristocrats and stopped paying the taxes, which led to the annihilation of the nobles as a whole. And without the aristocrat, who held the knowledge of the world, all the landlords began to exploit their people even more to the point that they started to sue and question the hero. The hero, with his idiotic sense of justice, brought the landlords to prosecution. The farmers began to ignore the landlords and it became impossible to pay taxes. Without those taxes, all the retainers began to act on their own. Most of them fled to somewhere else, while the rest began to make new taxes, inviting wars to the kingdom.

Without any other choice, the hero began to solve the problems by force and with his poor judgment, started to use his force for his own convenience, and all the heroines

seduce him to act for their own convenience. Everyone tried to fight against the hero, but with all his power, the hero became a mass murderer that was even worse than the Demon Emperor himself.

Quarrels between humans escalated, no crops ripened; cornered, humans began to hunt magic/demonic beast for food. Seeing the events piling one after another, the Mother Dragon rage reached the limit and took away the Divine Ability she gave to the hero, making him powerless, leading him to be beaten to the death by his vassals.

Eagle, hearing all my story, seemed to believe my story and nodded.

「So, it's like that. With that mommy's king and that idiotic woman's son is possible. Even if he's the hero, leading a nation economically and politically is another matter. And also, if you have no strength to solve the problems peacefully and try to subjugate everyone by force, you will only be viewed as a tyrant ruler.」

「That's why I will act as a strong ally of his, and manipulate him behind the scenes. While I netori (steal) hero's bitches, sorry, the heroines as many as possible.」
[Seventh:LOL]

Ritone was saying such dreadful things while he made a serious face.

「Now I get it, the reason of why you didn't punish the village elder was because …」

「Yes, it's because one of the heroines, the sis-dere Rin, is the village chief's daughter. If it was not for her, I would have *** him and **** and *** him until he ****」
[Seventh: *Gasp*]

Ritone made a wry smile while looking at Rin. Rin, at the moment, is carrying the baby dragon while showing such an innocent smile.

「So a heroine, huh… Aside from Rin who else will seduce the hero.」

Following his grandfather inquiry, Ritone writes all the heroines names on a paper and gives it to him.

「I know some of these names, Puh, Nadya too!?」

「Yeah, Yandere Nadya. Even though she's really cute, she's really the jealous type and scary…」

「I got it, I will lend you a hand in your quest to conquer those heroines you speak of.」
[Seventh: Best Grandfather EVER!][Daily: Oh yeah da wingman UP TOP]

Showing a good natured old man smile, Ritone can't relax because he gets a bad vibe about this.

At that moment, the chief maid appears.

「Sir, as ordered, I brought all the books regarding the way of raising a dragon.」

The book's title was "A gentle way to nurture your dragon" and it was written by the author the Hero Artemis.

「Let's see」

Ritone, reading the book, found every small detail about the way of life of a dragon.

-A baby dragon is a extremely delicate being, treat it with care.
-Once in awhile, it will bite and try to chew your head, be patient.
-Parasites could settle in between and behind the scales, so it's important to let the dragon sunbathe regularly.

「Oh, I see. Just because it's cute, it doesn't mean that it will be easy to raise it」.

-A dragon can live by absorbing the magic from the Earth. When a baby dragon reaches half a year old, it is an absolute necessity that the baby drinks its mother's milk. If the baby haven't drank the milk before six months, the dragon will become extremely violent to the point that it will require to wear a slave's choker to prevent it from attacking other people.

「Hey!」

Ritone retorts instinctively to the book.

「This is bad, the reason of why Ritone of the story had to put a slavery choker on the baby dragon, was this…」

Once again, he realizes how difficult is to raise a dragon.

「Then, without further due, let's return the baby to the Mother Dragon」.

-During the few first decades of a dragon, it will recognize the first living being as the parent and will become emotionally attached. If you forcibly take it away from the foreign parent, it will become extremely sad to the point that it will weaken to its death.

「Are you kidding me? There is no other option?」

「There doesn't seem to be another way, let's send an emissary to inform the Mother Dragon.」

Eagle and Ritone didn't have any other option than sigh at each other.

The next day, at the courtyard

「So, we are going to start magic practice.」

The proud Head maid, told Rin strictly. The maid is an expert in water type magic.

「I understand!」

「Kyuii!」

The dragon was responding energetically between Rin's arms.

「Rin, I get that the dragon is cute, but, you should leave him…」

Ritone was trying to convince Rin, but was rejected with a tantrum.

「I don't wanna. Milky and me became friends! Isn't that right, Milky?」

「Kyui kyui!」

Before he realized, the maids have named the dragon Milky.

In that instant, the head maid walks determinedly to Rin's side and pulls her ear.

「It hurtss!」

「Behave yourself! Don't be conceited, just because you have some talent towards magic. I will personally coach you in the ways of magic, so stop being selfish!」

「… I understand…」

Rin handed over Milky to another maid, and started her magic lesson.

「Let's start, shall we? if I'm not wrong, you can use the same darkness magic, can't you?」

「Yes.」

「The darkness magic is also known as Spatial Magic. We have the ability interfere with the space. Among dark magicians, our Shylock House excels with summoning magic, we can distort the space and summon items and even living things. It is said that the founder of the Shylock House used the magic from demonic beast's cores to summon money and support the hero.」

「So it was like that. It is quite convenient, isn't it?」

Ritone is reflecting about it. He seems to have understood the mechanism behind RPG games, and why there are drops after a monster's defeat.

「As your magic power increases, you will be able to summon any kind of living being. But what the magician can summon, depends on the person. Also, all the summons must be done with things that doesn't have ownership over them; and even though you made it disappear, it won't bring trouble to anyone. After the first generation, the goddess added this restriction over our family.」

「It's natural, if it's not, it could only be considered as robbery.」

Eagle nodded to Ritone's observation.

「Then, let me show you my summoning magic. 」

As he waves his staff, he releases is a fierce amount of magic from his body. In an instant, something fell from the sky, and made a noisy *DOKAAN* sound.

「In-incredible. This is…」

At the courtyard, there is a rock with a diameter of one meter. Around it, there were pieces of rocks scattered all over the courtyard.

「I can summon rocks. Well, the rock itself doesn't hold any value, but it can make some rude guys who haven't paid their debts, pay obediently, by dropping a rock just in front of their noses.」

He then starts laughing eerie. Certainly, if you drop a big ass rock in front of their noses, anyone will start to cower.

「It's time for you to try, with all your soul, pray to the goddess. The first thing that you have in your mind will be fixed as your summoning object. In other words, it's a contract with the goddess.」

Eagle handed over the family's relic wand. Hearing the explanation, Ritone reflects.

(So, it has to be something that even if it disappears, it won't affect anyone, and it also helpful. That's it, Garbage from another world.)

Deciding what to summon, he waves the wand.

Suddenly, stuff that cannot be described appeared all over the courtyard.

「… This is… What is this?」

A cylindrical object rolled over his feet, Eagle looks at the thing and tilts his head in wonder. The object has some kind of drawing, and is somewhat transparent, and a bit dirty.

「It's a success! This is a pet bottle.」

In Ritone's face, after seeing success, showed a big smile all over his face.

「What's a pet bottle?」

「In short words, it is a container to put liquid in it.」

「What!? A canteen that can be completely airtight? This is marvelous, being this small, it can be carried by soldiers one by one, reducing the supplying costs」.

It is natural that he's this surprised. The game was designed after the Europe Middle ages as the base. At that time, water supplies were transported in water jugs or barrels, those weren't airtight, were also heavy, and a hassle to transport.

「If you want such a thing, I can summon as many as you want.」

「It's that true? Then, please give me those in a large quantity.」

Seeing Eagle happy, Ritone was happy too.

「Hahaha, this is amusing. This cane, is lot easier to use than my tree scraps wand, and it also reduces the magic consumption considerably to the point that the difference is discernible.」

「It's natural. Normally, a wand is made from a tree that is showered by magic. Then, an artisan puts his soul into his work. A cane made by an amateur won't be able to handle summoning magic.」

「So it was like that… Okay, then I will summon without rest, Eii!」

Ritone started to act cocky and waved the cane. All of the sudden, a plastic bag with the words "Garbage Resources" appeared and inside of it there were empty cans.

「And this is?」

「As I thought, it is a type of canteen. The drink goes inside this tin can, and it's sold this way. After drinking its contents, it will end up as garbage.」

「To think that they do some strange things…」

Even though he said that, he picks up the can and inspects, and in a moment his face's complexion changed.

「Isn't this light silver? And this one it's steel. To think they will treat such a precious materials as junks, your previous world, what wasteful thing they are doing!」

「It is really that precious!?」

「Light silver is better known as mithril, and it's known as the legendary metal that can store magic power and it's mostly used to make legendary weapons. And the steel is known as the hardest metal, but the manufacturing process was lost over the time… And to think that these are treated as garbage. How deplorable! It is like dumping gold and silver.」

For quite some time, while holding the cans, Eagle was complaining about it.

「So, if we sell it to a merchant, can we sell it at a high price?」

「No, I cannot do such a stupid thing. This will be considered as top secret of our Shylock House. Using these, we can forge armours and swords and give them to our soldiers. With this, our army will become a lot stronger, and our House will flourish even more!」

Eagle made an evil grin and burst into laughter.

A few days later

Ritone was getting a little bit tired about his life as a noble. Starting from that point, Eagle treated Ritone as a treasure even more than before. He was okay at first but, to protect his secret from the world, Ritone was surrounded and heavily guarded by a squadron of maids 24/7.

「Little master, do you require my assistance?」

「You can order me anything」

「Little master, where to?」

「I'm just going to piss!」

Even though I'm going to the toilet, the maid squad follows me one by one.

「Just where are you planning to follow me to…」

「To anywhere, anytime. Let me take care of your clothes.」

「You don't have to!」

Ritone was as red as a tomato while rejecting their offer. The maids, continued even though at this point, it only looked as harassment.

「If you want me to, I can hold it for you.」
[Seventh: (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)]

「It's okay, just leave me alone!」

「We cannot do that. Your grandfather ordered us to be by your side all the times. I know it is difficult, but let's train your mind and soul so that it doesn't bother anymore.」

There were similar to this everyday, so Ritone's privacy and personal space was nowhere to be found.

(I don't want this anymore, maybe he is spoiling me but, I cannot catch a break. Maybe the real Ritone's personality began to warp in this environment.)

Running out his patience, Ritone went to his grandfather's office.

「Oh, it's about time that you showed up.」

Eagle showed a calmed face, even though Ritone's face was full of anger.

「Grandfather, please stop this madness already! Every day, I can't catch a break, because the maids are following me 24/7. They even follow me to the bathroom and then to the bed…」

「Isn't it just fine? All the maids smell good, don't they?.」

「Well… that's true, but that's not the point!!」

Ritone disclosed about his nonconformity regarding his privacy and personal time.

Hearing Ritone's point to the end, Eagle brought out some files from the desk.

「Grandfather, this is!?」

There were few names written in the paper.

「These are all the guys who tried to assassinate you, or kidnap you. I have already taken care of them.」

「…!!!」

To suddenly realize, that assassins have already started to move, Ritone could only shiver.

「At some point, the opposite party won't have any other option than to be docile. Let's see how many more heads need to roll before they stay still.」

Eagle suddenly laughs with such a wicked tone. Kukuku… Ritone, feeling a cold breeze, reaffirmed the dark side of the aristocracy world.

「I understand, I'm sorry for throwing a tantrum.」

Seeing Ritone sulk, Eagle flustered made a follow up.

「We-Well, as a man, one would want to be free in the outside world, being raised in a confined placed could be hard, but you already lived in the outside world for such a long time. You should know that everything is not about freedom right? So, please hold on a little bit until everything calms down.」

「Yes, is there anything that I could do to help? Even though I have grandfather support, and you could suppress the opposite party, it's just a temporary solution. After your death, who knows what would happen…」

After being told by his grandson, Eagle starts to think.

「You're right. This current situation cannot continue for a long time. Putting aside the time I'm alive, if you are underestimated by our vassals, it will lead to the ruin of the Shylock House.」

「Maybe you could hand me something to work on, something that I could handle… I know! I have the power to summon things from another world. Using my ability, maybe I could solve a problem of our land.」

Ritone, somehow, was trying hard to gain the approval of his vassals, as the future master of the Shylock family.

「A problem, huh… As you said, even though our land is a prosperous one, it doesn't mean that there aren't problems. Inequality, poverty, hunger, slavery, monsters attacks to tribes and other nobles whom are cooperating with us. I got it, I will lend you a hand so try to solve a problem. As long as you solve one of the problems of our land while I'm alive, you could increase your approval and authority over the vassals.

「As you order!」

Having given a task, Ritone became cheerful again.

Ritone, to hold a stable position as the future head of the Shylock family, is starting to

make plans to solve numerous internal affairs.

Chapter 5

Title Here

From that day onwards, Ritone secluded himself inside the study.
As he realized the main problems that occur inside the Shylock's territory.

「First of all, the source of the conflicts permeates society as a whole.」

The actual Rostania Kingdom, being the only powerhouse in the continent, only supported economic activities within its own borders.
In other words, this is like the Edo era, where they had a policy of national isolation, and because the hero solved the dispute with the Demon King, there was peace for a long time, causing the economy to decline.

「The social standing of the aristocracy seems to be set in stone mostly… 」

The king, queen and prince/princess stand at the peak of the aristocracy, followed by the knights, plebeians, merchants, and finally, slaves; that's how the country ranks all the social standings inside the kingdom.
In addition, the merchants were being underestimated because they don't contribute to manufacturing goods.

「However, all the gold has been accumulated by those of the merchant rank, and it's causing a problem. The reason falls mainly on the barley, which is the staple food in this world, making it the base of our economy.」

Even the value of a territory is represented by how many people you are able to support with barley. For example, the Shylock House is able to sustain 2.5 million people, so it's considered as one of the top Houses of the aristocracy.

「It's like the economy is based on feudalism, huh… But the times are changing and the economy is switching over to an economy based on monetary currency (mercantilism). The era where you only needed to harvest barley is over, but it seems that the nobles and knights haven't realized it yet.」

The merchants, who understood about the importance of currency economics, are increasing in rank, and making fools of the nobles. And to accomplish revenge over the nobles, they make loans with high-interest and squeeze money out of them.

「To our fortune, Great-grandfather was able to predict such an outcome. He stopped relying on barley as the sole source of income, and shifted his focus as loan sharks to reorganize the territory. However, this led to resentment from the nobles… 」

At the moment, because Eagle, the minister of financial affairs, is the current heir of the house, no one has gone against our family publicly. However, the moment he dies,

they will be persecuting our House.

「To prevent all this, it is essential that I alternate between the carrot and the stick. For starters, I'm going to start with these guys.」

Ritone reaffirmed his resolution as he looked at the list of nobles who had became unable to pay their debts.

Ritone went to his own storehouse, where the summoned garbage was being stored.

Among them were a large quantity of , empty cans, dirty stuffed toys, cast-off articles of clothing, cardboard, tires and some broken bicycles.

「Among these, which one do you think will sell well?」

「Let's see. Without a doubt, I believe that clothes are the best choice. It's hard to believe that clothes of such quality are being wasted. Also, the style is superb.」

One of the young maids picked up and put on a shirt that says「Carnivorous species」and expressed her opinion.
Clothes made of synthetic fibers are way lighter and more durable than those made of cotton.

「Well then, I will have to ask you to do the laundry and patch-up the clothes that are tattered.」

「As you wish.」

Leaving the task to the maids, Ritone sent an envoy to the nobles that are unable to pay their debts.
One week later, inside the Shylock's reception hall, there were nobles with pale faces.

「I was told that the young master of the Shylock House wants to talk about the debts, but have you heard anything about it?」

「No, we haven't heard anything either.」

The nobles were talking among themselves. Most of the present nobles were nobles of lower rank like Iron or Tin rank nobility.
Unable to pay their loans, they are way past their deadline, making them unable to calm down.

After they were kept waiting for a while, a little boy entered the room.

「Everybody, it is a pleasure to meet you. I'm the heir of the Shylock House, Ritone

Shylock. Regarding your debts, the head of the Shylock family, Eagle Shylock, has decided to hand me full authority over these matters.」

With a mild gesture, Ritone made a greeting.

The nobles, seeing that Eagle hasn't come forth, began to relax.

(If it's just a little kid, I can easily fool him about our debts.)
(If I marry this kid to my daughter, the debt would disappear.)

With that in mind, the nobles started to try to curry his favor.

「Is that so, I'm the Iron-rank noble Fashar, at your service. Being so young and so reliable, the future of the Shylock House is highly secured, isn't it?」

「How smart are you! Our daughter is of the same age as you, how about paying a visit to our house later?」

All of them saw Ritone with greedy eyes, as if they were wolves looking at a piece of steak.

Chapter 6

Ring and Piercings

However, Ritone, with a cold face, made a declaration.

「Each and every one of you has been unable to pay your debts to our House in 3 whole years. Our patience has run dry. Starting from today, we are going to have to renegotiate our relationship.」

Hearing Ritone's statement, all the nobles' faces began to turn pale.

「Pl-please just wait for the reimbursement a little longer! We have all done our best.」

「Ye-Yes that's right. Besides, we gave you our house's heirloom as collateral.」

Hearing the nobles' shriek, Ritone laughed cruelly.

「Ah, those things. Bring them here.」

The maids brought in all the heirlooms that were supplied as collateral.

Ritone, giving the items a glance and confirming them, started to laugh.

「We have already done an assessment of these heirlooms and whether we can sell them or not. All of these items are things that cannot be sold, or even if they can be, they are garbage that won't fetch any considerable sum.」

Before the nobles, all the heirlooms that were used as collateral were lined up as he said those words.

The nobles were angry, due to the fact that their heirlooms were treated as garbage.

「What do you mean by worthless? This is a slipper that the legendary hero Artemis used, a valuable piece of history!」

「A drawing made by the genius artist who started a new artistic style. How can you be dissatisfied with that!?」

「For you not to know the value of this that was granted by the majesty of some generations before!」

Even while everyone loudly asserted themselves, Ritone kept calm.

「Is that so? In that case, I will give you a week. In that time, can you find a merchant that will buy those heirlooms at a high price? Either way, our house doesn't mind it as long as we get our money back.」

「Uuu..」

Hearing that, all the nobles went silent. As Ritone said, even though all these things were owned by influential people, they had neither a monetary value nor utility.

Seeing the looks on the faces of the nobles, Ritone informed with a mild voice.

「However, I have seen that for all of you, these are far more important. So, I will return to you the heirlooms that were used as collateral.」

「Is that true!?」

「Yes, of course.」

As he ordered, the maids returned the heirlooms to their respective owners.

「Thank goodness… With this, I can face my ancestors' graves.」

While the nobles were happy about it, Ritone made a signal to the maids. One maid exited the room as she was given the signal.

「However, in exchange, you will have to put a certain item on yourselves. Gufufu… then please…」

「Yes, as you order.」

The young maid beside him, stood up and brought two boxes and opened them. Inside of them was a large quantity of rings that were shining brightly.

「Eh? What is that?」

「Among the servants of our House, most of them are purchased slaves. They have been using the "Slave Collar" until now. However, it's really embarrassing because they are immediately identifiable as slaves. That's why, I thought of a solution to this problem and the solutions were the "Slave C*ck Rings" and the "Slave Piercings".」

As one of the maids heard Ritone's speech, she blushed and pressed her chest. She had an outline on her neck, indicating that she had been using a choker just a few days before.

「The men will put the "Slave C*ck Ring", while the women put the 'Slave Piercings' on their breasts. You will offer your bodies to us as your collateral.」

At the moment Ritone made that statement, the hall burst into complaints.

「Don't mess with us! Are you saying that we will become your slaves?」

「You're wrong. Unlike the slave choker, this one can be hidden. Putting aside its function, with this, you will be able to maintain your positions as nobles.」

「B-but…」

「Until you put these on, you won't be able to return to your homes.」

The moment Ritone gestured the signal, knights armed to the teeth entered the room. The knights quietly pointed their blades toward the nobles.

「D-Dammiiit!!!」

「Well then, the women will be in another room. The maids will put in their piercings. The men will have to put the c*ck rings on by themselves.」

While feeling disgraced by Ritone's cold words, the nobles had no choice but to put them on.

TOC

Chapter 7
Method of Reimbursement

「Well, I thank you all for your uprightness by putting it on.」

Ritone made a gesture with such a demeaning tone that it made all the nobles glare at him with hate.

「Well then, let's talk about the reimbursement in a more concrete way. I redrew the loan contract for each one of you, so please confirm it.」

As Ritone said this, they reluctantly received the documents for verification . Then, as they read it, every single one of them made extremely complex faces.

「In exchange for cancelling a part of your overdue payments fines, I will only add 1000 arus to your bill for all the overdue payments. Also, the interest that was at thirty percent until now will be reduced to ten percent, and the repayment period will be extended for 10 years. Compared to what it is now, the reimbursement money is lower than what you have right now, so it should lower your burden.」
It was certain that those were the conditions written in the contract.

「Excuse me, could I?」

One of the nobles, who was reading attentively, raised his hand.

「Please, help yourself.」

「It is stated in the previous contract that you will sequester a fourth of our barley produced yearly, but if we go by the contract, we would only need to make a cash reimbursement once a month…」

「That's correct. We don't plan to confiscate your barley anymore. From now on, all the barley that you harvest will be yours, and no one else's.」

Hearing that, all the nobles were relieved. By taking a fourth of the harvest, even if the harvest was a great one, it became just barely enough. Moreover, if the harvest was bad, they didn't have any choice other than to take it from the workers.
Due to this, the workers eventually died of hunger or escaped from there, reducing the production even more, and becoming a vicious cycle.

「With this, I could give them bread to eat!…」

The nobles were delighted and cried, but suddenly they realized.

「B-bbut, how do we pay you. Even if you ask for a monthly reimbursement, we don't

have a monthly income to even pay you with.」

「Of course, I got it covered. I prepared for something like this.」

Then, commanding the maids, they brought a great amount of cleaned summoned clothes.

「This… feels great.」

「Even though these are really comfy, they feel really light…」

They checked the quality and feeling of the clothes by wearing them. The clothes were of higher quality than those that they usually wore.

「I'm going to give you a wagon full of these, for free. All of you are going to sell them at a high price to the merchants, and every month, you are going to come here and pay the monthly payment while saving the rest for next month's funds. By doing that, you will be paying all the debt in a blink of an eye.」

The nobles, hearing Ritone, felt embarrassed at their behaviour. He not only didn't pressure them into paying, but he also supplied them with the means to pay their debts.

「Ritone-sama!!!」

「We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!」

The nobles prostrated themselves before Ritone, thanking him all the while.

「Please, stop. I'm just thinking of it as business. By selling these clothes, you will be able to pay the loans. And we, as loan sharks, would be able to get the return on the deal without an issue. From now on, please work hard on selling those clothes.」

「We are going to work as if our lives depended on it.」

The nobles returned to their respective territories carrying massive amounts of clothes.

Chapter 8

A Certain Comic Book

One month later

The nobles who have beaming smiles on their faces came to pay the bill for the first time.

「Everyone, I thank you all for your payments.」

Ritone bowed his head to the nobles in appreciation.

「Please don't lower your head, Ritone-sama is our saviour.」

「Since then, the clothes were selling like hot cakes, and I was being pestered by the merchants about when are we going to re-stock, so we would like to implore you once again.」

Apart from the payment, they paid a large amount of gold for the purchase.

「Yes, it's been prepared.」

The nobles received a great deal of clothes with overjoyed faces, and in return, Ritone earned a large quantity of gold coins.

Eagle who has witnessed many business transactions, watched with shocked eyes as the nobles with joyful faces came for repayment willingly.

「What a stunning view. It's the first time I've seen a person repaying their debt with such a smile.」

「Well, their purpose is not for repayment, but for clothing purchases.」

Being admired by his Grandfather, Ritone smiled wryly.

「With this, we don't have to receive meaningless collateral and we are exempt from its management. So people who were unable to pay us will be revitalized as people who could give us high return.
They are going to sell the clothes like crazy to pay their debts; in exchange, I'm going to sell even more clothes to them, creating more profit for us.」

「Yeah… Although, why weren't the clothes handled by our house? We could have earned more if it was sold directly to the merchant.」

Eagle wondered.

「Because they're afflicted with debt, they have a grudge against our house. With this, their dissatisfaction will dissipate, and they will become devoted servants who will sell it at the wholesale price.」

「I see.」

Consenting, Eagle deeply nodded.

「One of our family's problems is solved with this.」

「Hmm. However, there is a lot more additional work to look into because of this. You are still green. If it fails it's hard to recover. When you become the lord, it is better to be conservative by any means because a failure will cause trouble for many vassals and the citizen of the territory. For now, I will permit what you did to some extent.」

「Yes, Grandfather-sama」

Ritone replies obediently, as Eagle stares at Ritone reliably.

Shylock Territory

In the warehouse, Ritone started summoning garbage from the other world.

「Abandoned books from the other world, come!」

A hefty amount of books appeared at the same time as Ritone was praying.

「Onii-chan, this cute picture. How was it drawn?」

Ritone tilts his head in confusion as he picks up one of them.

There was a picture of a cute boy and a dignified man embracing each other for some reason.

Panicking, Ritone quickly takes it.

「Rin must not see it! T-this, this, in any case, is useless.」

「Eh? Onii-chan is so cruel!」

Rin, trying to take back the book that Ritone took, jumped with all her might. However, due to her small stature, she couldn't reach it.

「I-it's better if you read this instead.」

Ritone hands over a child's book of a healthy boy to Rin as he panicked and presses the comic to the head maid Nellie.

Looking puzzled, Rin opened it and expectedly didn't understand.

「As expected, I don't understand.」

「Is that so, it's because it is written in Katakana. Here I'll read it to you. Once upon a time, there was a Grandfather and a Grandmother…」

While reading the book, it was being translated into the language of this world.

「Hee~ Interesting.」

「Kyu~Kyu~!」

Rin and Milky, with shining brilliant eyes, queued up in line next to Ritone as they listen attentively.

At the side not so long ago, the maids eagerly were looking at the comic.

Chapter 9
Harmful Books

「W-What is this?」

「I understand that butt is butt…… But how is it written?」

There is no culture called manga in this world. Also, they touched a more special culture of the manga in Japan that is unique among all others, which sparked curiosity from the housemaids in mind and body.

「……It is only Ritone that understands this language, so it is inevitable. Let's ask Ritone to read for us.」

They waited for Ritone to finish reading the folktale, and hand over the manga.

「Ritone-sama, this please.」

「I wholeheartedly decline.」

Ritone ruthlessly declines to translate it.
[TN: I would, too. Who want's to read a BL manga to curious maids, imagine the destruction.]

「Will you be able to? Uhm, the pictures are very artistically drawn, and we also would like to read it.」

Somewhere along the line, Ritone was now surrounded by curious housemaids.

「It's because I don't have the heart to bring BL art to this world. This harmful book will now be incinerated.」

Due to Ritone refusal, the housemaids grumble.

「Such a thing! So cruel!」

「That's wasteful. This, this will absolutely sell!」

「Ritone-sama is stingy!」

Even though Ritone was severely criticized, they were still not able to make him concede.

「Call it whatever, it's useless! This pernicious book.」

「…… Then, this is not okay?」

Nellie, the head maid, picks the book Ritone secured himself with a cold face.

It was filled with the dreams of the youth.

「Th-this……」

Shaken for a moment, Ritone responded firmly.

「It's because of the art.」
[Daily: (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)]

「Men are really selfish……」
[TN: No this is not about being selfish, but for the sake of the world.]

The head maid Nellie stared at Ritone with a cold face, but he firmly held his ground.

「However it's called, this is not good. It will be art if it's about men and women loving each other, but this is taboo BL art of a man with another man.」

「……If that's the case, then there is no other way. Let's ask Kurie.」

One of the housemaids calls for Kurie.

It was the usual, but Kurie, with an emotionless face, was ill-humored from the start.

「What's the business? Making such a racket……Hm?」

She turned silent as her gaze fell upon the book Nellie handed her.

After a while, she looked up silently.

「……Where'd you find this treasure?」
[TN: Oh no…]

「Ritone-sama summoned it from the other world. So I was hoping for Kurie's opinion.」

Nellie mumbles something in her ear. Kurie's glasses gleamed with a flash.

Upon seeing this, Ritone felt even more uneasy.

「Wh-what?」

「 It is one of the wind magic『Speech Resonance』. A special ability that can understand a person『Speech Concept』and copy it if the person using it has the magic affinity with wind. Kurie-sama can use it.」

Nellie explained it triumphantly.

「Is that so, wait, that means!」

「Kurie-sama who can copy Japanese can also teach it……」

Seeing the expectant faces floating on the housemaids, Kurie nods.

「It's fine, adopting the advanced culture of the other world for the sake of this world.」

Hearing it, joy rose in the housemaid faces.

「Sa~, Kurie-sama please『Receive』.」

「I understand.」

The expressionless Kurie blushed slightly as she answered.

Then Ritone-sama as the『Sender』. Please read this.」

「NO!」

Though he tried to decisively refuse, he was immediately suppressed by the Housemaids by force.

「Saa, please we all wish to learn. Why do the young boys embrace each other naked?」

Like that, they open the page of the manga mentioned some time ago before Ritone forcefully.

「N-N-NOOOOooooo!」

In the end, he was forced to carefully read every single page.

Chapter 10

Abandoned Successor

In the reception room, a man wearing luxurious clothing had a nervous face was biting his nails.

「…… Why am I being summoned? Perhaps, it was exposed? No, it should have gone through many intermediary agents. It surely did not get exposed.」

The man who was desperately persuading himself is Gold Shylock. He is the son of the current head's older brother, Eagle Shylock. He is also the man who was first in line to become the successor to the Shylock family until just the other day.

That was until the appearance of the biological grandson of the current head of the family which he hadn't even thought of until now. His position as the successor grandly faded away.

It came as a complete surprise since he confidently believed himself to be the chosen successor. It was a scenario that he couldn't possibly comprehend.

Furthermore, the merchants who were helping him were pressing about settling the debts which can't be repaid unless he succeeds as the successor.

「…… Gold-sama, we thought that you were going to become the head of the Shylock house, and rule over the territories. However, that was just our incorrect assumption.」

「We deferred the repayment of the debt, and that was because we thought you will become the head, however, that is no longer the case.」

Gold had become flustered as the merchants to leave.

「W-wait, it hasn't been decided if the kid will be the successor! So there is still something that can be done!」

「…… As soon as possible, show me something that we can agree with.」

Said a merchant as they all left. Gold, being driven into a wall, had subsequently intended to rely on the Assassin's Guild to kill Ritone.

「Good, dispose of that kid as quickly as possible!」

「Please leave it to us!」

The Assassin hits his chest with confidence. However, communication was cut off in less than a week.

After that, he was suddenly called by his uncle.

Gold, who was anxiously biting his nails, appeared before Eagle, who gave him a displeased look.

「Uncle, how are you feeling?……」

「Unfortunately, I'm not in a good mood. Seeing your face makes me feel unpleasant.」

Eagle looks down at Gold with cold eyes.

「W-Why is that?」

「I know everything. You are neck deep in debt from the merchants who are rebuking you for not being the successor, and to resolve that, you tried to assassinate my cute Ritone!」

Being harshly reprimanded by his uncle, Gold trembles in fear.

「Wh-Who would do such a thing……」

「Still feigning ignorance!? Show it!」

Eagle faces towards the Secretary Kurie and gives a slight nod. Kurie bows and leaves.

「W-What is…Geh-!」

Kurie entered the room after a while, with several coffins carried by the Knight's Squadron.

When the knights opened the coffins, some of the corpses which could be recognized as the assassins, and the person who was in charge of being the intermediary with the assassins guild had been left in a tortured state.

「You know these people.」

「Who are they……」

「Is that how it is? Then with my authority as the current head of the family, I sentence you to be tortured. It doesn't matter even if you're killed.」

By Eagle's orders, the Knights pin Gold down.

When faced with torture, he confessed quickly.

「I-I'm very sorry! I beg of you, please spare my life……」

Looking at his own nephew scraping his head on the ground pleading, Eagle's face reveals a feeling of disappointment.

「……I think it will be better to kill you, but I can't. There is no other way. Put this on.」

A shining ring is thrown to the ground.

「My grandchild developed this "Slavery C*ck Ring". If you try to harm Ritone, the ring is set to automatically tighten, concluding once it strangles and cuts it off. With this c*ck ring, it will prevent any malicious intent from you.」

「T-That's… But that's……」

Gold desperately shakes his head, but Eagle pressures him mercilessly.

「Then, will you die here?」

「Hii-…… I understand. I'll put it on.」

Gold then equipped the c*ck ring reluctantly.

Chapter 11

Punishment and Compensation

Confirming that Gold put the ring on, Eagle smirks evilly.

「Do not worry. Even though I'm this old, I learned something from my grandson. To earn people's complete loyalty, the stick isn't enough. One also needs to use the carrot.」

「Carrot… what is that about?」

Gold, who was drenched in sweat, tilts his head in wonder.

「That's right. It's understandable that you would think that it's unjustified. That even though you're supposed to be the heir just a while ago, you lost your standing in a blink of an eye. I believe it's reasonable that you would attempt to get rid of Ritone.」

「Th-that's right! There was a reason behind all this…… Sorry!」

In the spur of the moment, Gold blurted out those words, but a single glance from Eagle shut him up.

「Aside from you, there are others who are displeased by the idea of Ritone being the heir to the House. You must gather information about those fellows, and notify me about it. By doing that, you will receive compensation.」

「Compensation… you say?」

「That's right. If I'm not wrong, you have a daughter. Isn't Nady her name?」

「Ye-Yes! This year, she will be 12 years old and she's really cute…… Don't tell me!-」

Gold realized something in his astonishment.

「It's exactly that. I'm thinking of making Nady Ritone's fiancée, combining our families together into one.」

The moment he heard that, Gold was smiling from ear to ear.

「Th-that's a wonderful idea. My daughter is extremely beautiful, her magic talent is superb, her personality is good, and she is the same age as Ritone-sama. She is perfect as his marriage partner!」

Gold was doing his best to emphasize his daughter's strong points. At that, Eagle ignores what he said with a wry smile.

「Before thinking about an assassination, you should have thought of applying Nady as my grandson's fiancée. Your lack of ability and foresight to think of such solutions made me reluctant to declare you as the heir. Well, that's enough. From now on, you will become Ritone's father-in-law, and protect him from the shadows. The child born between those two will become the subsequent heir to Ritone!」

「Ye-Yes! I will use everything I have to support Ritone-sama.」

Gold, once again, prostrated himself and made an oath.

At breakfast, Eagle talked to Ritone in a cheerful mood.

「Hear me out. I was able to appoint a girl who you called a "Heroine" as your fiancée. She will come to our house sometime soon.」

「Who are you talking about?」

「She is your second cousin, Nady Shylock.」

The moment he heard that, Ritone's facial expression changed.

「Eh? Why did you do such a thing…… 」

「I did it because, you told me that you have to steal those heroines from the hero, to prevent the destruction of the world, didn't you?」

Seeing Ritone's expression, Eagle was puzzled.

「I did talk about it, but I wanted Nady to be the last one.」

Ritone started to talk about his reasons.

Nady Shylock, among the heroines of the story, was the most difficult girl to conquer.

Her character is dark and silent. Her hobby was reading, and although she had no interest in men, she showed extreme attachment to the hero, to the point that she fought with other heroines to monopolize him. I told Eagle about some parts of her.

「In other words, she is a bit of a yandere. She is not a mere yandere, but even worse, a . If I were to conquer her first, there is a possibility that I could never get all the other heroines. 」

「Fumu… was my help unnecessary?」

Eagle, twisting his mustache, was regretting his decision for some time.

「But I think that it could be better to act as fast as you can. Her father is Gold Shylock, my nephew, and he tried to get rid of you to get your position as the next head of the family. If dealt with poorly, it could inflict some of the harm to you. I thought that if his daughter becomes your fiancée, then he could get some of the profit, and we gain control over him.」

「……Thank you very much for worrying about me.」

Hearing that, Ritone gave his sincere thanks.

(……If I'm not wrong, in the game, she was Ritone's slave. Maybe he was purged, and Nady, who was part of his family, fell into slavery. Even if it's not necessary that she becomes my fiancée right now, it could be a great option.)

Ritone, thinking that, directed a smile at his grandfather.

「Well, I will do everything I can. If treated well, she could open her heart to me.」

「Yes, you should give your all. As the one who will inherit the Shylock House, you should make contact with her with the utmost confidence.」

Eagle laughs excitedly. However, the encounter between Ritone and Nady was the worst it could ever be.

Chapter 12
Nady Shylock

A few days later, while riding a luxurious coach, a nervous man and a petite, beautiful, and fair-skinned young lady were called to the mansion.

「It's nice to meet you Ritone-sama. My name is Gold Shylock, and this is my daughter who goes by the name of Nady Shylock.」

「……」

While Gold was rubbing his hands and expelling an air of servitude,

Nady wasn't showing any emotions at all.

「Hey, can't you do a proper introduction already!?」

Being scolded by her father, the young lady reluctantly opened her mouth.

After she introduced herself lightly, she looks down again. With that, a heavy atmosphere was developing inside the meeting room.

「Ni-Nice to meet you. I'm called Ritone Shylock. You'd be my second cousin, wouldn't you? It's a pleasure to finally meet you. As my grandfather has said, you are a real beauty, aren't you? Please take care of me from now on.」

Even though Ritone tries to start a conversation with her by smiling with all his might, Nady only responded by avoiding his gaze fiercely.

「…… That smile, it's creepy.」

With her commentary, the atmosphere of the room freezes.

「Wh-why is that… I only wanted to start a friendly and bright conversation! I thought that I could give you an excellent first impression!」

「…… But that only applies for the handsome.」

「Guhaaa!」

Ritone's heart felt like it was stabbed with a knife and as if Nady was gouging it.

「What did you say!!??? This brat, how could you say such a thing to my cute Ritone!」

Due to a blood vessel appearing on Eagle's forehead, Gold began to panic.

「I-I'm really sorry. Hey Nady, apologize to them immediately!」

「I just told him the truth. His made-up smile is creepy, and his ulterior motive can be seen clearly. I can't allow myself to marry such a man.」

As she said such a remark, she stood up and exited the room.

Silence fell upon the remaining three. And after some time passed, Gold started to talk with a heavy tone.

「……You bastard, have you ever taught your daughter about proper manners as a noble? 」

「I-I'm really sorry. Nady is still a kid, and she only yearns for princes or heroes like those of legends. She has never listened to me and only talked about marrying the hero one day… 」

Gold was drenched in sweat and lowered his head. By seeing the circumstances, Ritone only had the option of consenting to her behavior.

(So it was like that. In the game, she was set as a book worm. If an illegitimate child of the king, whose identity is a hero, were to appear before her, she has no other choice than to yearn for him. To add, I did that…… huh? Wait a moment…)

As doubt surged within Ritone, he questioned Gold.

「It may be impolite to ask, but how is your wife's health?」

「What? Ye-yeah, to this day, my wife is healthy and travels from place to place as an adventurer.」

「An adventurer…… you say?」

「Ye-yes, I'm ashamed to inform you that she is an A-rank adventurer named "White Princess Norn" and spends her life exploring dungeons and subjugating monsters. Even though she is at that age, I'm truly ashamed.」

Even though he said that, he truly must love her. Gold was blushing while he said that.

(Wait a minute. Didn't "White Princess Norn" appear in the h-game? She was an older elf beauty that was involved with the hero in an event inside a dungeon. Wait a minute, if I'm not wrong, as she was inflicted with poison inside a certain dungeon, she fell into a coma. Then, the hero cured her, and… that means that nothing has happened yet.)

Once again, he realized that all the events from the visual novel have yet to happen.

(If at this point, we were to be engaged, it would have a negative effect. I shouldn't push it.)

He reached that conclusion.

「Ritone-sama! I'm really sorry about what happened. I will reprimand her harshly, so please don't cancel the engagement yet……」

As Gold begs shamefully, Ritone answers with a laugh.

「No, it's our fault. It was unreasonable on our part to ask for an engagement to a person that I just met. For starters, I should work hard to become her friend. Gold-sama, you shouldn't scold her too harshly. You would end up putting her in a tight spot.」

「……That's right. Thinking about it clearly, she is still a child. We should take it slowly for now.」

Eagle, grasping Ritone's intention, followed him up.

「Tha-thank you very much!」

Directing a strained laugh at Gold, Ritone stood up.

「Well then, I will follow her like a normal child. You should leave everything to me.」

With a bow, Ritone left the meeting room.

Chapter 13
In The Library

「Now… how can we be on good terms?」

While walking down the hallway murmuring, he bumped into Rin, who has Milky on top of her head.

「Good morning, Onii-chan.」

「Kyuu!」

As soon as Ritone appeared, she happily ran up to him.

Being healed by the gesture, he asked Rin.

「Hey, have you seen a small girl?」

「That young girl went to the library.」

Ritone nods when hearing it.

「Good, let's do that then. Rin, you come too.」

Pulling Rin's hand, they headed to the library.

Library

Within those tens of thousands of book collections, Nady was sitting while reading a book in one of its corners.

"The Biography of the Hero Artemis" was written on the thick book, which was being read at great speed.

「… Wonderful… The hero is so cool.」

While being absorbed in reading, a shadow falls over the book.

Being disturbed from her reading, Nady looks up unpleasantly.

「Please don't obstruct my reading… Eh?」

Upon seeing Ritone and Rin, Nady stiffened.

「Ex-excuse me?」

「What happened?」

Staring at one point, Rin and Ritone's intrusion was ignored.

「Kyuui?」

Finding it strange, Milky tilts its head at Nady, who is intently staring at it.

「A B-b-baby dragon!!! Cutttteee!」

The very next moment, Nady shouted out and clung onto Milky.

「Kyuiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!」

At the same time, Milky's cry reverberates throughout the library.

「Hey, enough already, let go. Milky doesn't like it.」

「… No!」

Nady, who is shaking her head, holds onto Milky.

In her arms, Milky struggles and squeals.

Nady didn't budge at all, even after an hour had passed.

「I will take this child as is, back to my home. I can't leave her alone at such a place like this!」

As Nady was being selfish, even Ritone's face became grim.

「Enough… Eh?」

「Ouch!」

The moment Ritone was about to scold her, Nady releases her clinging hand.

The reason is that Milky bit her.

「Kyui!」

Milky, who has been released, joyfully gets on Ritone head.

「That! Why would it be attached to such a man!」

「Because this child thinks of me as its parent.」

Ritone gently caresses Milky's head, and in response, Milky joyfully squeals.

「A dragon can only show attachment to a hero, or are you saying that someone like you is a hero?」

「Only a hero? Come to think of it, what's left of the legend says that Hero Artemis raised a mother dragon. Disappointingly, I am not a hero, and I also don't want to be one.」

Ritone denied clearly.

「Unforgivable. For you to do such a thing even though you are not a hero. I truly detest you!」

As if saying she can't bear the sight, she turned away.

Being hated by one of the heroines this much, Ritone sighed.

「Say, why do you hate me so much?」

「… I heard it from Father. You are mixed with the blood of a commoner.」

Nady's face started to show some sense of discrimination towards people of lower status.

「It certainly is so, but my mother inherits the rightful blood of the Golden-Rank Family. Besides, who is your mother?」

「Do not disrespect my mother! It's true her origin is a commoner, but not any ordinary commoner. She's the very famous adventurer "White Princess Norn"!」

Suddenly, Nady began to scream at him. Apparently, she's also been looked down upon by the House for entering with the half-blood of a commoner. So she takes pride in her mother, who is no ordinary commoner, perhaps trying to desperately keep that to heart by looking down on Ritone, whose father is a commoner with no fame.

「… However, there is nothing I can do about my birth. Even if you dislike me for something I have no control of…」

「Fun~, it's not only that. At your age, you were tasked with the work of vulgar moneylending by Grandfather and have been pressuring a lot of nobles. How long have we suffered by being criticized as a moneylender? … I hate you! 」

Nady, who has a lot of pride, came to hate moneylenders completely when she saw her father, a pure noble, bow before a moneylender who is but a mere merchant.

「I don't like father either. Just a few days ago, you were looked down upon as an incompetent child of a commoner. As I became your fiancée, he completely changed his attitude and started to praise you. Adults are filthy.」

(Don't say such a thing to him… That uncle has various sides to him.)

Being an old man in his mind, Ritone was fed up with her foolishness.

In fact, Gold's debt had originated due to the bad harvest which caused him to exempt taxes completely, with its purpose of saving the people.

The remaining tax was paid for by asking for funding from the merchants.

Though he is cold hearted since he ruthlessly held an assassination for a noble who was an obstruction to himself, but at the same time he is, in a feudal point of view, a merciful existence.

It was another one of the reasons that Ritone nor Eagle tried to remove him, and instead attempted to take him in.

If these were peaceful times, he might have been recognized as a merciful and wise ruler.

However judging from her eyes, she only sees him as a servile father who bows to everyone.

(As expected of the most difficult heroine to be captured. I believe that it will be impossible to become friends immediately.)

Seeing Nady, who stubbornly hates him, Ritone was quite lost at what to do.

「I-I understand, I won't force you to this unreasonable engagement. If you still are unable to like me at the time when I become an adult, I won't mind canceling it.」

「Naturally, because I will marry the hero!」

Nady, with glittering eyes, yearned for the hero she has yet to see.

[SeventhRealm: You're right Tach, this heroine is pretty stuck-up. Wonder how the MC will re-educate her….kek]
[Tach: Actually, she's quite (omitted)* by the next arc, kek]
[Daily: (omitted)*? (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)]

* Spoilers

Chapter 14
Sour Grapes

After soothing Nady, they returned to the conference room.

「We somehow made up. Please take care of me from now on.」

「……Me too.」

While Ritone made a forced laugh, Nady held his hand impassively.

Seeing the situation, Gold was finally able to relax.

「Ohh, is that so. That's great then.」

「Dear father, it's getting late. Let's go home.」

Nady pulled her father's arm, wanting to return home.

「You're right. Well then, please excuse us.」

「Yeah, as we've agreed, so long as Nady is Ritone's fiancée, our House will be shouldering your debt. Tell that to the merchants.」

「For saving us, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.」

Gold bowed excessively, while Nady, when she heard that, showed a displeased face.

As they were about to part, Ritone gave a warning.

「I'm just going to give you a piece of advice. Your mother, the "White Princess Norn" will probably go to the "Spider Dungeon" in an attempt to rescue those from the Lilliput copper-ranked noble house. In there, she will lose to one of the 6 demon officials, the "Earth Spider", and be poisoned by it.」

「……? What are you talking about? My esteemed mother is an elf, there's no way that she'll lose.」

As if mocking Ritone, she snorted with her nose.

「It all depends on you, whether you listen to my warning or not. Please give this letter to your mother. It's all detailed in here.」
Saying that, he forcefully handed her the letter.

「……You… you are really pushy. You repulse me.」

「Say whatever you want. I certainly warned you.」

Ritone made a scary face in order to express his concern. As Eagle watched the wagon in which the two rode, he muttered.

「……As I thought, I did an unnecessary thing, didn't I?」

「No, it's not like that. Using this chance, I was able to warn her. At least, it's much better than having our first meeting at the academy. Well, I will conquer her slowly.」

Ritone muttered that as if he was persuading himself.

Because Nady rejected him, Ritone was really depressed.

(I know that I'm not a hero nor do I have a likable character, but this is not a game, and we, the nobles, are responsible for the lives of the commoners. That's why we require money to make a living. What is so bad about being a loan shark……)

Rin tries to cheer up Ritone who was bummed out.

「Oniichan, even if you are hated by that person, don't get sad.」

「Kyui, Kyui!」

Together with Milky, they try their best to cheer him up. With that cute gesture,

Ritone's wounded heart healed a little.

「Uuu…… Rin, you really are a great girl.」

Holding Rin, he also pats her head.

(Yeah! I don't care! I have Rin by my side!)

As he is thinking like a poor loser, Rin said this:

「Yeah, since oniichan is really kind, you are definitely going to find a nice woman.」

「Guhaaa!」

He received some damage as if his heart was pierced by a lance.

「Oniichan, what happened? Are you feeling sick?」

As Ritone showed a face like he despaired over this world, Rin tilted her head in wonder.

「It-it's nothing. Putting this aside, Rin, how would you describe your ideal guy?」

「Well, a handsome, strong, and intelligent prince!!!」

Rin answered energetically with sparkling eyes. And that Rin's expression was similar to the one Nady showed before.

(This is bad…… Rin only likes me as a brother, but when she hits puberty, she will consider me gross. Then the hero will……)
[Seventh: lol. so Tach this is what you were talking about. He is really afraid of his heroines getting (omitted)* .]

Ritone thought of a future scenario where Rin smiles wholeheartedly, bows to him, says something like "Oniichan, thanks for everything until now, I will definitely become happy", and goes to the hero's side.

「I-I don't want thaaaaaat!」

Ritone cries while running away.

Rin who was left behind, exchanges glances with Milky, and tilts her head.

「What happened to oniichan?」

「Kyuii?」

Milky also tilts its head.

「But to think that oniichan asked me something like that. What happened really?

Did he perhaps see me as a woman even just a little?」

Making her young face red, Rin imagines that.

「But…… since I'm a commoner, I cannot marry my oniichan, can I. That's why it would be best if he marries a kind, noble princess…」

Rin sighs, and pets Milky who is watching her in wonder.

* spoiler

Chapter 15

Encounter with the Mother Dragon

(This is bad… if things stay this way, everything will be taken by the hero.)

Once again, I'm aware of the difficulty with competing with the hero.

Aside from the fact that he has the cheat ability called hero as his birthright, although he is an illegitimate child, he is still a prince who inherits the blood of the king.

To add, he is also a handsome man, so that makes him practically invincible.

Despite being a successor in nobility, ability-wise, Ritone who is at the level of mediocrity was at a disadvantageous position from the start.

「What should I do after this… In the first place, how am I supposed to beat the hero…」

Although he wants to somehow acquire strength equal to the hero, he does not know what to do.

While walking down the corridor and groaning over and over, a maid approaches running and shouting.

「Young master! It's serious trouble!!! Quickly, take shelter in the basement!」

「Oh? What happened?」

「In the courtyard… A huge dragon.」

As soon as that was heard, Ritone ran to the courtyard.

Courtyard

The Knights, who were tattered, have collapsed on the floor of the courtyard.

Their armor was split by sharp claws, and a flame burned them completely, but they're only wounded and their lives didn't seem to be in danger.

They reported to Ritone, who ran to the courtyard.

「Y-young master, please run away. It's a ferocious dragon, we fought, but couldn't even make a dent…」

Talking to that point, he lost consciousness.

(Dangerous. Super Terrifying.)

Though he was pressured by the dragon almost to the point where he wet himself, Ritone stepped forward before the dragon.

「GUWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA」

Bowing to the dragon, who was intimidating with its big open mouth menacingly.

「Mother dragon-sama, welcome, thank you for coming here. I'm called Ritone Shylock, heir to the Shylock house. I was sincerely waiting for you to come by.」

Polite and servile, and to prevent angering her he openly shows respect to his utmost ability.

Because the dragon has been glaring at Ritone for a while, it snorted.

「…At least, you're a kid who knows his manners. I will listen to you talk.」

Its form changes at the same time it talks in a hoarse voice.

「…First of all, guide me to my child.」

The mother dragon ordered proudly with a figure of a young blooming lady.

「KYUI~KYUI~!」

「Oh, look at you~, my adowable wittle baby~. I'm glad you were born safely. Chu~ 」

In the room prepared for Milky, the mother dragon affectionately breast-fed Milky.
[SeventhRealm: Wait, is she even clothed when she changed to a human? Also, Milky is still a dragon, so…]
[Tach: This is baby talk, if any of you knows how to baby talk in English, please help us]
[Daily: No worries, I got it covered ;)]

「Onii-chan, don't look.」

「I understand.」

Ritone, who was visually obstructed from behind by Rin, mutters.
The housemaids warmly gazed at the situation.

「…It's fine now.」

When the mother dragon finished nursing after a while, she spoke and Rin finally

released her hands.

「So you're named Ritone. Give me the gist of what really happened…」

The mother dragon who changed completely when with Milky, then gave an angry face, and Ritone, without hiding anything, talked about it.

The mother dragon, having finished hearing everything, sighed.

「I see, you don't seem to be telling any lies. You bought the egg from the thief who stole it without knowing anything. If so, then you can't be blamed.」

「Would you permit us humans for our impoliteness?」
Ritone asks while trying to relax.

「To tell you the truth, I want to annihilate all of you. I'm also one who was raised by a human, the hero Artemis. Maybe this is fate.」

She says while looking fondly at Milky, who moves on top of Ritone's head while pleasantly squealing Kyui~Kyui~ innocently,

「So the legend that was left is true.」

「Umu, my foster father was a really great man. I was raised like a true child, dozens of humans and demon groups who were aiming for me were subjugated. That gallant figure, even remembering now, my heart trembles.」

The mother dragon remembering something, relaxes her cheeks.

But, the very next moment her cold face returns as she glimpses at Ritone.

「……But, for a bastard like you to be the foster father of my child, how deplorable. Neither your strength nor magic power is better than that of an ordinary human. If I leave it all to you right now, you wouldn't be able to protect my child.」

「Haa~… So it's like that after all?」

Having his powerlessness pointed out once again, Ritone becomes depressed.

But the mother dragon, while looking at him, grinned.

Chapter 16

The Blessing and the Start of the Training

「Since it can't be helped, I'm going to grant you my blessing.」

She forcefully pulls Ritone, and kisses him.
[SeventhRealm:┬┴┬┴┤(ﾟ3ﾟ)├┬┴┬┴]

「○△▲×凹凸凹!!!」

Pain was coursing throughout his entire body.

「Don't make a fuss! Right now, I'm injecting you with dragon's blood. Hold on for a bit!」

Still kissing him, she talked to him telepathically. The suffering that felt like eternity ended abruptly.

「Haaa…haaa…」

After all of it, Ritone fell on the floor.

「Hou~, you withstood that. You, at least, have some willpower. Listen well, the blood that I injected you with is both a blessing and a curse. If you ever harm my child or become an evil existence, it will activate the curse and eat you from the inside.」

Listening to Mother Dragon's words, Ritone was carving his thoughts deep inside.

(I know. The hero was able to become strong to the point that he could win against the demon king, thanks to Mother Dragon's blessing. Later, his demise was also due to the curse of her blood. And with this, I'm able to stand at the hero's starting point.)

Ritone was happy deep inside but fell into despair after her next words.

「My blessing is「Limit Break」. You won't die easily, and as you train harder, you will become stronger. Nevertheless, even though your physical strength and magic power were strengthened, you're still weak.」

「Eh? So I'm unable to protect Milky then?」

Thinking that he got a cheat ability, he felt disappointed as his prediction was off.

「Don't worry about it. My child still requires my milk. From now on, I have to come every day to breastfeed her, so in the meantime, I will train you thoroughly. Like the Hero Artemis, you will protect my child.」

Seeing Mother Dragon's smile as she said that, Ritone felt insecure about his life from now on.

Courtyard

While Rin and Milky watch over them, Mother and Ritone started training.

「Well then, I'm going to start your training in the martial art that my father Artemis developed:『Rising Dragon Cloud Fist』」(雲亢竜拳)
[Tach: Ascending Heavenly Dragon Cloud Fist.]

「Shitting Dragon Fist?」(ウンコ竜拳)
[Tach: Lol, Shitting Dragon Fist]
[Daily: This is a play on the word "Un Kouryuu" 雲亢竜 having the same pronunciation as "Unko Ryuu" ウンコ竜]

Thinking that it was some kind of mistake, he repeats it in surprise.

「You fool! It means "the fist that reaches above the clouds like a heavenly dragon with one's own body"!」

Without delay, he was scolded by Mother Dragon.

「Please, instruct me well.」

While Ritone bowed, Mother Dragon suddenly grabbed his head and softly raises him to the sky.

「What- what are you- ?」

「First, you need to learn it with your body!」

As she reached a height of 7 meters, she released her claw.

「Uwaaaaaa!」

Obviously, Ritone falls.

「Ouuuuuch!」

Somehow, he landed on his feet, and naturally, he broke his legs.
[SeventhRealm: ಠ_ಠ]

Chapter 17
Fall

「What are you doing!!!」

The mother calmly answers Ritone, who complains while enduring the pain.

「Don't worry, you'll recover immediately due to my dragon blood's blessing. Endure it for 30 minutes.」

「30 minutes… Ow!」

Due to the pain from his bone fractures and the pain of the sudden recovery of his bones, Ritone fainted in agony; however, Mother was merciless.

30 minutes later, his head was lifted up to the sky.

「P-please wait a minute! What is this training for!」

「Don't worry, if you continue this for a day, you'll understand the reason with your own body.」

Being released merciless in the air, he naturally broke his leg.
[SeventhRealm:ಠ_ಠ]

And then, 6 hours later – 12th time

「Strange, you should've come to understand it by now… Or are you a masochist?」

「It's not that! Please, at least tell me what you are doing!」

The mother sighs, as Ritone yells while being lifted in the air.

「Like I was saying, it can't be explained through words! If you don't like the unpleasant pain, you have to prevent yourself from getting hurt by any means! 」

Releasing her hand again, she caused him to fall with great force.

(DAAAMMMMNNN! I don't want this anymore!)

Because of the ingrained instinct to hate pain, somehow or another he tries to avoid a bone fracture.

Ritone unconsciously concentrated magic to his feet.

A *doooon*~like sound is heard, and for the twelveth time, a cloud of dust caused by the falls arose today.

「Well, well… Such poor learner. I believe that it should be happening anytime soon, but … oh?」

A shadow appears inside the cloud of dust as it calms down.

Ritone stood tall without fracturing his two legs.

「H-huh?」

Even he doesn't understand what had happened.

「Fumu, it seems to have worked. Then let's do it one more time.」

Being lifted to the sky and dropped again, this time, his legs broke as usual.

「O-ouch… 」

「Fool, weren't you able to do that a while ago? It seems that you are getting accustomed to pain. Then, I will add in the fear of death; next, it will be a height of 15 meters! 」
[SeventhRealm:ಠ_ಠಠ_ಠಠ_ಠ]

「St-stop it! It huurrtts! The bone fractures haven't healed either!」

「I don't care!」

Mercilessly, he was lifted 15 meters high.

「If it's this height, you will definitely land with your head. Do it like your life depends on it, recall that feeling a while ago! Humph!」

Specifically adding more force, he was thrown to the ground.

Ritone, sensing the terror of death, desperately tries to recall the feeling from a while ago.

(I don't want to diiiiieee!)

Guarding his head instinctively. Protecting it with his hands, hardening his body, he exudes his magic.

(Huh? This feeling…)

When using magic so far, he emanated it with his mind, but now it was emanating throughout his whole body.

Without time to think, he crashed into the ground.

Don~, a sound was heard, and once again a cloud of dust magnificently arises.

「Onii-chan!!!」

「Kyui~!!」

Milky and Rin rushed over in a panic, as a crater of 3 meters in diameter emerges.

「O-onii-chan, did you die?」

「Kyuiiii」

When Rin was about to cry, at the bottom of the crater, something crept out.

「U-uu… Gaku~」
[SeventhRealm: Gaku – Sound for collapsing]

Ritone, who is worn-out, crawls out and faints on the spot.

「Onii-chan!」

Rin, rushing over while panicking, treats him with water magic.

Chapter 18
Ki

After a while, Ritone wakes up.

「Humph, you didn't die after all.」

Seeing Ritone open his eyes, Mother leaked some words with a dull expression.

「Excuse me… Perhaps, are you trying to kill me?」

「As if that's it. You are still alive, aren't you?」

「But I was on the brink of death…」

Ritone remembered the fear of the ground approaching him and was trembling.

「And, did you comprehend it? If not, let's do it once more…」

「I-I understood, there's no need!!」

Ritone jumped off his bed in a panic, using his awareness to pass the magic through his body. Then, it linked with his interior strength, giving him control of it.

「Muun!」
[Tach: I believe it is an SFX]
[SeventhRealm: Think of it as turning super sayian.]
[Daily: Saiyan* you pleb]

As he released that power, his body was covered in a thin defensive barrier.

「It seems that you understood. That's『Ki』.」

「『Ki』…」

Although it was a setting he heard a lot in games, it was his first time comprehending it intuitively.

「The energy that dwells inside one's spirit is『Magic Power』. The nobles that have magic power dwelling inside them control it consciously to bend the laws of physics. On the other hand, the energy that dwells inside one's body is『Ki』.

Ki is used by knights and martial artists unconsciously, enhancing their physical strength.

Great people like the hero are able to use both of them. That's why they held unparalleled power, possessing the ability to defeat an army all by themselves.」

「I see…」

Even though it existed within himself, realizing the power that dwells within him, Ritone nods.

「However, you have only grasped the tip of the iceberg of the『Rising Dragon Cloud Fist』. You will also train tomorrow!」

「Hiiiiii-!」

Ritone had to scream at training that couldn't even be expressed as spartan since it was way worse.

Next day

「Withstand it more. You have to be conscious of the defensive film surrounding your body.」

He was thrown into a large kettle while it was heated. The experience was like being sentenced to death by boiling in an iron pot.

「Hooot!」

「You have to keep surrounding yourself with the defensive wall! Make it so you can control it even for a day!」

In the end, he was boiled all day within the kettle, and his body was swelled up.

And the next day

「Hurry up and run! Concentrate and be conscious of it!」

「Hiiiiii-!」

Ritone, while stark naked, was running barefoot.

Around him, there were hedgehogs, which have extremely sharp thorns, basking in the sun.

Here is the edge of the continent, a savage land named『Needle Mountain』.

In this area, there is a species of magical beasts which lives in swarms. Ritone was brought to this rocky mountain, which no one approaches normally, and was forced to

run all day long.

Of course, since he was surrounded by hedgehogs, he had no other choice than to cover himself in a defensive film of『Ki』so that he doesn't become severely injured.

「It hurtts!」

Stepping on a baby hedgehog that was at his feet, Ritone shrieked out loud.

「You fool! You have to constantly keep the defense barrier in top condition. It's because you sever your connection to your『Ki』!」

Ritone, who was covered in his own blood, was severely scolded without mercy by Mother Dragon.

As a result of receiving her training for a month, he was finally able to master using his ki to defend his body.

Chapter 19

Beginning of Territory Affairs

As Ritone was growing accustomed to the Mother Dragon's hellish training and his studies to become a noble, one day he was summoned by Eagle.

「Grandfather, I'm intruding.」

Upon entering the office, he saw an unexpected individual.

「Gold-sama?」

「Ritone-sama, it's been a while.」

Gold, who seems more composed than before, bowed to Ritone who was coming inside the room.

「Why is Gold-sama here?」

「Umm, to tell you the truth, it's nearly time for the kingdom's annual budgeting session. For the next half a year, I must stay at the capital.」

Showing the decree from the Kingdom, Eagle declared.

「That reminds me, Grandfather is the Minister of Financial Affairs.」

「Yes, to be honest, I don't care a bit about the kingdom, but the king begged me in tears. If I don't arrange the budget, the kingdom won't be able to handle it. However, since I was anxious about leaving Ritone alone, I called Gold over.」

At this time, with a markedly stern look on his face, Eagle set eyes on Gold.

「Hear this, even though he is an excellent summoner, and has received the blessing of the Mother Dragon, he is but a 12-year-old boy. It would be unreasonable to have him act in my stead. Gold, you will aid him with the practical matters of the affairs of state.」

「Yes, as you order!」

Gold bowed exaggeratedly, and accepted his order.

「Ritone. As the heir of the Shylock House, you will be deeply involved in the territory's affairs (or politics). It will be the best to study under Gold, and learn about the territory's affairs from him. 」

「Yes, I will do my best. Gold-sama, I'll be in your care.」

「Likewise, Ritone-sama.」

Looking at Ritone and Gold, Eagle revealed a relieved smile.

After Eagle headed to the kingdom's capital, Ritone was with Gold learning about the territory's affairs throughout the morning.

「Ritone-sama, this is the data for each village's harvest. The quantity fluctuates every year, but the crop yield of grain averages around 2.5 million. However, thanks to the development of new granary fields, the amount has reached around 4 million. Our subordinates number around 2 million, and there are around 80 noble families that have ownership of villages and cities. And aside from them, people will have to be paid for the harvesting work.」

Ritone receives a detailed explanation about the internal states of affairs of the Shylock House.

「The salary for our subordinates is set for 2 million bushels* of grain. And the other expenses reach up to 3 million bushels.」
[Daily: Just assumed because there wasn't a specified unit of measurement]

「…That means, that we are in red, right?」

Staring fixedly at the documents, Ritone murmurs. Since the numbers inside the documents were all over the place, it became confusing. But with his knowledge as a banker from his previous life, he was able to sort the information into a balance sheet and income statement. As a result, he reached the conclusion that they're in red, considering only their revenue from the grain.

「…Unfortunately, that seems true. We also have the income as loan sharks of around 1 million aru, so we should be able to somehow turn things around. Even though I vaguely knew about it, even so, I didn't account for such a sorry situation. Since there was a late inheritance, the assets are still abundant, but…」
[Daily: Aru is the currency it seems.]

Seeing Ritone examine the data that he prepared, Gold also breathed out a sigh.

Despite being a young master from a noble family, the current state of affairs doesn't lend to any luxuries.

Because of the income from being a loan shark, we can still get by, but after the hero–who has no economic sense–becomes the king, he passes the Act of Virtuous Government ordinance, which cancels all the loans we've made. And it was obvious that the economy will collapse.

That's why it's necessary to take some measures before it's too late.

「Hmm. At the very least, I would like to cover it with taxes but…」

「Ritone-sama, let's cultivate more granary fields.」

Gold makes a proposal. However, Ritone slowly shook his head.

「No, increasing the yield of cereal is meaningless.」

「Why is that?」

Gold looks puzzled.

「Because the nobles around the country have just been producing cereal to try to increase their income. And the merchants controlling the circulation of cereal have been taking advantage of the situation to lower the prices. The more cereal produced, the lower the value when sold, and with that, it'll become a vicious cycle.」

Ritone explains while looking at the cereal's market price data. The price of cereal was surely dropping gradually.

「I see…」

「So let's produce crops other than this cereal within the territory. If we monopolize the distribution of that crop instead of the merchants, then we can greatly increase our income.」

「But, is there a crop that can be sold so conveniently?」

「There is, please leave it to me.」

Ritone held such self-confidence.

Chapter 20
Crops

Ritone and Gold went together to a certain warehouse.

Inside of it, there was a mountain piled high made up of incomprehensible things.

「This is…?」

「Gold-sama, this will be the first time I've told you about this. My special ability is to summon "another world's garbage". None of this trash exists in this world, so there could be something that should be of use; that's why everything is kept in storage.」

「So it was like that…」

Getting to know what Ritone is capable of, Gold was sincerely intrigued.

「And then, in that world, they produce a lot of food products. Those goods aren't consumed completely, so some of it should've been thrown away. I'm thinking of summoning those right now.」
Ritone, as he said that, closed his eyes and concentrated.

「The "crops" that have been thrown away in another world, come forth!」

As Ritone swung the wand, there appeared lots of plants lying around on the floor.

「This is…」

When Gold saw that, he was speechless. There were grain, barley, and much like those already cultivated in this world, there were also many streamlined yellow grains that were beneficial to the body. There's also a round, brown one that looks like it's grown in clusters, but most of them he's never seen before.

「This cereal is the same as the one commonly harvested in this world, but this has been improved through selective breeding.」

「Certainly, this one is shorter.」

Seeing the cereal in Ritone's hands, Gold blurted out his opinion. The height of the cereal ear* was shorter.
[Tach: grain-bearing part of the stem of a cereal]

「To tell you the truth, shortening its height is a point of improvement. Gold-sama, aren't we using fertilizer for our territory?」

「Yes, as the condition to make them magistrates that oversee each of the villages, we

promoted magicians who could use intermediate or higher tiers of earth magic as opposed to basic earth magic. They are going to visit each village, decomposing organic waste to use as fertilizer.」

Gold nods in response.

「However, if it's given too much fertilizer, the soil can't support the roots, causing the crops to collapse.」

「It's as you say… Eh, are you saying that the reason why it is so short is… ?」

「That's right, this cereal is purposely made shorter through selective breeding. By doing that, the crops won't collapse because of the added fertilizer, and it will be possible to produce more grain.」

The thing that Ritone is stating proudly– is about the period of improvement on crops for mass production around the 1960's, the so-called "Green Revolution". To exponentially increase the production of crops, there was an increase in fertilizer mixed into the soil, however, since the cereal ear became heavier than before, all crops collapsed. With that, the stem and the root couldn't send nutrients to the ear properly, and the ear sunk into the water, dropping the quality and quantity of the grain production. To solve this problem, the stem was shortened and everything was resolved.

This lead to an exponential increase of crops made for mass production.

「Th-this is amazing.」

Hearing the explanation, Gold was deeply moved.

「If we use this, we could expect a higher yield even if we use less area than before. And taking advantage of that, we could use the remaining arable land to cultivate other plants.」

Saying that, Ritone explained the remaining crops.

「This is corn. These are suited for dry lands.」

He explained the yellow grained crop that Gold was holding in his hand.

「Aside from that, I have summoned "Rice", "Potatoes", "Quinoa", and other types. Rice is cultivated in wetlands. Although potatoes have poison on their sprout, if the sprout is removed then it can be eaten, and by replanting the seed potatoes we can expect to have much larger harvests. And "Quinoa" are grown on mountains or rough terrain; in addition, it can grow on nearly barren lands and still produce highly nutritious grains.」

Grabbing them one after another, he talked about them.

Even though Gold was admiring Ritone, he still had doubts.

「However, can we sell this?」

「If you have doubts about it, shall we eat them?」

As Ritone suggested that, he grinned widely.

Several days later, Gold responded to Ritone's call with several of Ritone's subordinates and gathered together.

What awaited them was a meal party.

「Well, go ahead!」

With the help of the maids, Ritone gathered Gold and other influential subordinates and treated them to a meal with all the cooked crops.

Even though they fearfully reached out for food at first, as soon as they had their first bite, they smiled.

「This is delicious!」

One of the bureaucrats, who was bald, was eating the corn aggressively–dropping quite a few kernels.
[Daily: The raw actually states "spilling the kernels like it's raining"]

「Even though we just boiled it in salt water, don't you think it is delicious?」

「Yes, this is the first time I have eaten such a thing.」
Corn kernels littered the edges of his mouth.

「This is… really soft.」

Gold was eating the freshly cooked rice, and was extremely pleased.

To people who mainly eat bread as their staple food, rice is a completely new flavor.

「Now please try this. This is "Nikujaga", which is a combination of meat and potatoes boiled together until it softens. It goes well with rice.」

Upon eating Ritone's recommendation, Gold suddenly shed a tear.

「I don't know why, but I'm remembering old times. Like when my mother cooked her

handmade food for me– that nurturing flavor. Since I was really preoccupied with work, how much time has passed since I have seen her…」

[Tach: Nikujaga usually known as wife's cooking or motherly cooking, but I can't understand it here… They are nobles that eat servant cooked food… (:P) I know that the author wanted to make a joke about it, but I just wanted to mention it.]

Leaving Gold, who was starting to cry, Ritone went towards a well-rounded female subordinate and recommended her a dish with plump grains.

「I recommend you this. By only eating this "quinoa", you could easily lose weight and become extremely beautiful.」

This woman, hearing that she could go on a diet with this, changes her perspective completely.

「I-is that true?」

「Yes, it is also highly nutritious, so you can have a balanced diet and healthy body.」

Hearing that, she timidly eats.

「It's delicious… This can be cultivated on rough terrain, can't it? My territory is cold, and is a plateau zone where it rarely rains. Can it be cultivated even there?」

「Yes, that is perfect.」

Hearing that, tears trickle down the woman's eyes.

「Young master Ritone… Thank you very much.」

She expresses her thanks as she grabbed hold of Ritone's hands.

Chapter 21
Placation of Vassals

「Alright everyone, the bread made from the new grain has been baked. Please try it!」

The maids brought out a large quantity of fluffy bread.

The vassals who had a taste looked at each other.

「Delicious…」

「What is this taste. It's certainly a bread made of wheat, but it's slightly different.」

Looking at their reaction, Ritone puts on a deceptive face.

「The grain you all have been cultivating is called "Rye". This thing called "wheat" is more delicious compared to that.」

When the servants had a bite, they all went in a clamor about its deliciousness.

Having served a great feast, Ritone then lowers his head to these satisfied vassals.

「Everyone, please help us spread these new crops. If these spread out, the Shylock territory will be more prosperous than it is now. However, I can't do anything by myself, everyone's cooperation is necessary.」

Seeing Ritone who's admirably lowering his head, the vassals who once held animosity now saw him in a positive light.

(I thought he was just a mixed-blood commoner brat that came from a low birth, but he's certainly polite, no?)

(And he introduced this new crop, which is really good. Cooperating may benefit my family's interests more.)

(It looks like Gold-sama is cooperating as well, so it seems that it's already decided that this youngster named Ritone will be the heir of the Shylock family. If that's the case, I should cooperate before it's too late…)

Faced with Ritone who was presenting the benefits and requesting their cooperation with due courtesy, they thought he had great utility value.

「We understand. We will cooperate!」

They all vowed to follow Ritone.

Seeing their reaction, Ritone was relieved.

「It went well… They seem to be willing to cooperate with this.」

As for what was needed in politics, it was: “accepting both good and evil”.

Even if they have been hostile to you in the past and you didn’t like their arrogant behavior, it becomes a reign of terror if you start persecuting others who have knowledge and wealth, and will eventually end in failure.

President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Pol Pot’s group from Cambodia are prime examples of such.

As a result of persecuting and removing the white people and scholars that they dislike because of their overbearing nature so far, their economy collapsed and every country (who did) turned into hell.
[Daily:… Don’t ask me…]

Those who he skillfully won over, were absolutely necessary for Ritone to stabilize the Shylock territory.

「Well then, everyone. Please try to cultivate these in your respective territories. And please spread these deep-rooted crops. As for the method for doing so, please refer to this book.」

Ritone pulled out agricultural books that people from Japan found unnecessary, and distributed the cultivation manual and seeds for each crop to the vassals.

Rostania Kingdom Treasury

After checking how much money and properties the country has left, the Minister of Finance, Eagle Shylock, heaved a sigh.

「This is terrible…」

As it is a country’s treasure vault, it was overflowing with gold and silver, but there was not enough of the most important thing.

At the time of the foundation of the kingdom, the gold and silver coins were so numerous that it could be piled up into a mountain. Presently though, they were nearly non-existent.

The remaining items were relics left behind by previous generations that cannot really be sold, and just jewelry and artwork.

「…When I told you I was returning to my territory, didn't I tell you not to touch anything in this room?」

Eagle glares at the Bureaucrat of Finance with a piercing eye.

He began to beg on his knees, feeling small, and make excuses.

「That is… the emergency expenses.」

「Expenses?」

「It was the additional budget for the Hero Artemis' 400th birthday festival, and making up for the gambling loss of Princess Antoinette-sama. And because of the poor harvest of rye, the debt from enlisting the knights…」

Being shown each amount of money (spent), Eagle almost passed out.

Chapter 22
National Problems

「The expenses for the Hero's Festival should have already been decided! In the first place, the treasury was already in a severe state, so there should have already been stricter regulations for spending in place!」

「…I was acting on the orders of the Minister of International Trade and Industry; because it was the 400th Anniversary of the Hero, the festival was supposed to be more lively than usual…」

「That guy…」

Eagle's face soured. Soleil was only assigned to a post like that because he was the childhood friend of the king, and from his viewpoint, he seemed to be nothing more than a termite gnawing away at the treasury.

(At any rate, he must have wasted it by trying to flatter the merchants.)

Bottling his anger, Eagle then asked the next question.

「As for Antoinette-sama's gambling losses, why was that taken from the treasury!」

「F-for the time being, we had arranged to call it a loan…」

「Idiot! That woman will never have a reason to repay it!」

「…there's no way, I could… go against them.」

The Minister of Financial Affairs hung his neck low, and spoke weakly.

「…and lastly, the loan to the knights?」

「That is… The overall harvest of cereal this year is poor.」

「A poor harvest? When the cereal prices aren't even rising?

Eagle tilted his head to the side in puzzlement.

「That's because the merchants banded together, and when we tried to put cereal on the market to sell, the prices hadn't adjusted at all because they flooded the market with their own, so the price did not rise despite it being a poor harvest, and the knights did not want to part with their own supply at such a low price… Because of that, the knights had run out of money and applied to the country for a loan, and I reluctantly had to lend it.」

「Hmm… could it not have been helped? The conduct of the merchants is infuriating, but on the flipside, the price of cereal did not rise either because of the poor harvest. So there is a silver lining in that, at the very least, the people wouldn't starve. How annoying!」

Bemoaning it, Eagle has to reluctantly admit that nothing can be done.

「However, if the loaner loans out money, it should have a proper interest rate, and mention the repayment plan! Get the contract!」

At Eagle's harsh words, the bureaucrats hurriedly brought in the knights' loan agreement .

After he read it, Eagle instinctively wanted to tear it to pieces and throw it away.

「What the hell is this! In addition to loaning it out interest-free, there's not even a repayment schedule written down!」

「A-about that, because the king is already collecting taxes from the greedy merchants, why should the knights have to pay interest? Instead, just pay it back in cereal the next time the harvest is good…」

「Who was it that said such a thing!?」

「I-I'm afraid, it was the king who said it…」

「Fool! If the king doesn't show a firm hand to the knights then of course this will happen! It's not just those contemptible knights, the king is a damn fool too!」

And finally, Eagle had lost control of his temper.

「It is as you say. At any rate, the treasury is bankrupt.」

The Minister of Financial Affairs turned blue and began shaking.

「…Well, it's unavoidable. Geez, now I have to gather the documents and report this to his majesty. My, my, it'll take far more than ordinary effort to slip out of this.」

Eagle thought about the difficulties this would present in the future, and his shoulders drooped.

Putting together a detailed report about the current state of the treasury, Eagle sought an audience with the king.

After waiting for an awfully long time, he was finally allowed to see the king.

「Hey old man, long time no see. You are doing well I expect?」

Saying that with a bit of refreshing laughter, was Rostania Kingdom's 17th Generation King, Louis Rostania.

A descendant of the Hero Artemis, and a handsome man in the early half of his 30s.

He gives off the impression of a young man with youthful vigor, and that makes a tremendous impact on the female nobility.

However, standing before him is a grim-faced Eagle.

「It is good to see the king in good health. But without delay, there are some things we need to discuss.」

He hurriedly tells the king about how the treasury coffers are running dry, but Louis waves his hands as if it was troublesome to talk about.

「I'll leave the matters of the national treasury to you, old man. That kind of stuff is too difficult for me to understand.」

And while saying these words and an "ahaha~" he smiled and laughed it off.

Though this kind of king was popular with commoners and nobles alike, it was unfortunate that he lacked the ability to see reality for what it was.

「No. I'll have you listen without fail. Firstly, in regards to Hero Artemis' 400th Anniversary Festival…」

It's said as good advice that when the national economy is rough, one should not waste money on things like festivals.

「Even so, when the economy is bad, people become tense. Furthermore, Soleil said the ones who have it the worst are the lower class. So at least the festival should be a blast…」

「As for that, only through promoting and developing the country's business infrastructure will it lead to future growth in revenue when money reaches the pockets of the citizens, only then do they benefit. Looking at these payments, the only gold entering any pockets are those of the merchants who colluded with the Minister of International Trade and Industry. It is not related to improving the lives of your people at all!」

Eagle approaches the king with the income and expenditure list for the festival, and emphasizes the list showing the payees. Certainly it is shown that only the larger merchants were being paid good amounts of money.

「I get it, I get it. It would be good if I could think like you, old man.」

Louis waves his hand aside and tries to parry the matter.

「…then, next up is concerning the gambling debts incurred by Antoinette-sama…」

「Y-you see, I too am a bit troubled about that, it's sort of like a disease with her…」

Louis scratches his head and shows a bit of an embarrassing face.

「…Then I trust you will leave the matter of her debt collection to me?」

「I-I'll leave it to you.」

Louis apologised to Eagle.

「Finally, on the matter of the loan to the knights.」

「Ah, there was no helping that. When you see someone in trouble, you should help them unselfishly. Furthermore, if they are my subjects and I am their king, isn't it all the more reason to lend a hand?」

Louis said this while looking Eagle right in the eyes. It was evident this was a matter of the King's pride.

However, Eagle stubbornly returned that stare.

「Who was it that reported that to the King?」

「H-hmm? I wonder who it was…?」

And just as Louis shamefully avoids eye contact,

「It's useless to feign ignorance. Besides, it makes no difference who it was who whispered it to the ear of your majesty.」

「S-saying whispered sounds a bit scandalous! These were all my own thoughts…」

「……」

「…E-Except for… the advice I received from Grand Knight Rudolf. That "in return for loaning the knights the money interest-free, I would be showing the magnanimity of the crown, and bolster their loyalty".」

Unable to bear the weight of Eagle's gaze, Louis immediately gave up the name of the person pulling the strings.

「And because of that, the burden was pushed onto the treasury because you failed to

see how this will ruin the kingdom's economy! Knights should be supporting the country, but now they're jeopardizing it instead!」

「I-It'll be alright. If it comes to it, I can just borrow…」

「Oh? Borrow from whom?」

「……」

And Louis finally rested his eyes on Eagle.

Chapter 23
Political Adversary

「Do you not understand what I am telling you? The loan to the Royal Family from my Shylock House is already at 10,000,000 aru. Nothing further will be loaned. Since I'm the Minister of Finance, I'll delay the repayment, but I expect you to repay the full amount after I resign.」

「Su-such a thing! It's troubling! Being abandoned by you, old man…」

Louis' face turned pale, and he lowered his head in apology. As expected, if he were to be abandoned here, the national finances would surely go bankrupt. From all the times Eagle constantly told him over and over, you would think that the king would have understood this already.

At the sight of the pitiful king, Eagle sighed.

(Honestly… despite having been educated from childhood, he still remains a lunkhead. He's already a 30-year-old man, and he's still acting like a spoiled child trying to take advantage of this old man… If I were to make a comparison, the 12-year-old Ritone is at least level-headed. Perhaps, if I spoiled Ritone with money as he grew up, would he by any chance have become like this? Taking that into consideration, maybe it is fortunate that Ritone was fetched after having been raised on the streets.)

Eagle was thinking such a thing.

「 … In any case, until these three problems are resolved, I am unable to draft a new budget. I trust you will grant full authority on these matters to me?

「I'll leave it up to you, old man.」

Louis resigned himself and gave Eagle a writ of full authority.

Royal Capital

Eagle, who was delegated full authority by King Louis, earnestly committed to rebuilding the country.

「Well… What should I begin with? Fortunately, the book Ritone summoned from the other world contained situations that resemble the current state of the kingdom.」

Shylock, after referring to the translated edition of the other world book that was brought from the territory, decided on reform policy.

「… First, before I can put any plans in motion, I have cause to gain firm control over the knights. Even if I try any reforms, it will be over if the knights oppose them.」

In this case, the knights are the direct vassals of the Rostania Royal Family.

Apart from the great knights who have territory, the knights who don't have territory live with a salary under 10,000 cereal that they receive from the country. They had some influence over the country.

Especially Rudolf's knights who pushed the debts of the knights to the country to grasp power as the leaders of the armed forces. Though it was because it was poorly initiated that it was unable to cause a coup d'etat.

「 … It's unavoidable.」

Eagle, as a politician who supports the country, makes a decision. And with that, he summons a certain person.

「 … Shylock, what business do you have with me?」

The Grand Knight Gourai arrives with a sullen face. It was a person who occupied the No. 3 position in the army.

He was known as an old-fashioned, blameless stubborn person, who hates the very sight of the Shylock family for their history of being moneylenders.

「I know that you hate me. However, I called you today as a person who has been entrusted with the reconstruction of the country by the king. Hearing this story, would you not comply?」

When Eagle showed the directive of plenipotentiary authority that was given by the King, Gourai corrected his posture.

「Let me see it.」

Eagle nodded once, and show the document which he showed the king. While reading it, Gourai's face was stained with anger.

「Unbelievable! It is not the merchants, not even the princess, but instead the knights that will devour this country!」

「Unfortunately, that is the reality. Thanks to you, the treasury is empty, and the way things are going, it will lead to bankruptcy.」

Hearing Eagle's story, Gourai earnestly listens.

「I asked the king, and decided to get a seat as prime minister. I want your party to

cooperate with me. I can ask only you since you truly do care about this country.」

「… As for His Majesty?」

「I don't know. I did not inform him of this. Because that stupid king will probably object that is.」

Eagle cursed his own King. Gourai felt anger at that, but endured as he continued to listen.

「This is in service to the country as a loyal subject. I won't let even the king advocate an objection.」

The face of Eagle began to fill with determination to rebuild the kingdom by any means.

「There is one thing I would like to ask, why are you so devoted to this country?」

Gourai listens while glaring at Eagle.

「Why, that's quite simple. If Rostania goes bankrupt, the 10 million aru loan will not be repaid.」

Eagle laughed as he bluntly replied.

「…I see. That's just what I'd expect from a lowly moneylender.」

「…But, mind you, I fully intend to truly rebuild this country. For my own benefit of course.」

「……」

Hearing that, Gourai is lost in thought. After a while, he lifts his face and looks at Eagle.

「Compared to the rats who prey on this country while providing lip service, the cruel old man who is trying to rebuild this country for his own self-interests is probably better. At the very least, you're less likely to turn your back on us. Let's work together.」

「As expected of Gourai-dono. Then I will be depending on you from this day onwards.」

Eagle extends his hand, and Gourai reluctantly shakes it.

Chapter 24
Abel

Royal Family Inner Palace

Louis the 17th's mistress, the consort, Antoinette, is ordering her chambermaid around.

「Maria, I want you to deliver this box of candy to Saiget's residence.」

She held out the chocolates which were inside a beautiful box.

「Uwaa, isn't it beautiful, just like a jewelry box. It also looks tasty~」

The pretty young girl who's only around 12 years old, instinctively gulped and swallowed her saliva.

Seeing this, Antoinette smiled wryly.

「You mustn't, since these are a present for Abel.」

For the sake of getting along with her son who she was living apart from, she had specially handmade them all.

「Su~re.」

Receiving them, the chambermaid Maria had traveled to the nearby family's estate.

「I have a delivery for Abel-sama~. It's from Antoinette-sama~」

As per usual, Maria was given free passage into Saiget's estate.

And the one who had greeted her was a young man with splendidly long and shining blond hair. For some reason, his eyes were covered by his bangs.

「Maria, thank you.」

Unwrapping the box he received, inside were mouth-watering chocolates and a letter.

To my son, Abel:

I want you to know I am terribly sorry for always inconveniencing you,
but I ask for you to be patient just a little while longer.
The Shylock Family, and some other obstinate nobles are opposing me, though I am sure I will become the official queen soon enough.
Once that happens, it will clear the way for you to come out of there,

and take your rightful place under the sun.
Until that day arrives, please, live strongly.

From the letter, deep affection can be felt from his mother Antoinette.

(Mother… I will try my best. Undoubtedly, I believe that there will come a day when I will finally be able to live with you. No I, have already been recognized as the successor to Antoinette. Once I become accepted by the king, I will annihilate those people.)

Abel, who had been carrying the box, started having dangerous delusions. The truth about him is that he was born as an illegitimate child to Antoinette and did not have any idea whom his father was. For his mother's sake, he was secretly raised in the home of her parents, the Saiget's family home.

In the Saiget family, Abel had been living his life as if he was a shadow, but he also had a high amount of pride, and for someone with a mind like his, he could not tolerate his current societal standing.

(Someday, I will become a hero and save the world. If I were to do that…)

Because he filled his hand with strength, with a crunching sound, the candy box was suddenly crushed.

「Abel-sama! That is a waste, you know!

「Ah! So-sorry Maria.」

「Mo~ … Since Abel-sama is a powerful person, please be careful, okay?」

Maria laughed brightly as she said so. She is the intermediary for him and his mother, and also his childhood friend. For him, with the exception of his mother, she was the only other person he could trust.

「Now, let's drink some tea.」

While the tea was being diligently prepared, Abel took a seat.

「Right, ah~n」

「Ah~n」

It seemed Maria was devoted to Abel like a lover.

Several days later, a party was held to mark Eagle's inauguration as the Prime Minister.

Because the king will also be in attendance, most of the country's key figures came as well.

Here and there were gatherings of each faction, all lively conversing.

「Kufufu, thanks to Cabinet Minister Soleil-sama, it was possible to make large profits at the festival.」

「Next year we'll find another pretext and hold another magnificent festival. That's right, something like "The 300th Anniversary of the 3rd King's birth."」

On the right hand side of the party was the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Soleil, and the wealthy merchants happily conversing.

「Antoinette-sama, shall we go to the casino later on?」

「Those clothes are beautiful. Who was it tailored by?」

Then at the center of the hall, were gorgeously dressed ladies elegantly talking. The tall woman at the center is the King's mistress Antoinette.

Their conversation is mostly about gambling and fashion, and also gossip about things such as adultery.

「The Great Knight Rudolf-sama said that he decided that, because of the high-interest rate taken from the loans by the merchants; it was possible to refinance it to one with no interest and save the country.」

On the left hand side of the party were muscular strong men who wore military knight uniforms congratulating themselves.

Thinking that they had found a clever way to get the country to shoulder their debts, they were feeling completely relieved.

They were people celebrating the spring of this world, but the situation changed shortly after.

That's because standing on the platform, was the newly appointed Prime Minister, Eagle Shylock.

Chapter 25

Termite Extermination

「Everyone, the party has magnificently ended.」

As Eagle arrogantly declared that on stage, various bits of applause was heard, but most people were directing eyes of hatred towards him.

For them, he who had noisily intervened was an eyesore.

Ignoring such glares, Eagle begins his speech on stage.

「All the people that have gathered today are in positions that bears an important responsibility to the kingdom. Therefore, I ask of you, help me with the country.」

When Eagle lowered his head, some of their expressions softened.

It seems that at last they had finally arrived at the point of respecting each other's position.

「No, no, it is as you say. We are loyal retainers who are prepared to risk our lives for this country any time after all. We'll cast away the current circumstances for now so we can work together in the future.」

To the Great Knight Rudolph, who's heartily laughing, Eagle finally laughs.

「How about it, Antoinette-sama?」

「Eh? Err… If there's something I can do…」

Although she was puzzled at being suddenly asked, she still answered with an appropriate reply.

「Minister Soleil?」

「Certainly!」

As Eagle directed a glare and scowl, a flustered Soleil arbitrarily shook his head.

Having earned the commitment from the three, Eagle gave out an order.

「Well then, I'll have you cooperate immediately.」

When Eagle gave out a signal, dozens of knights broke in and restrained them.

「What is the meaning of this!」

Rudolf found his subordinate, Gourai, among the Knights and yelled out to him.

However, Gourai expressionlessly responded.

「There is something I would like to confirm with you, and this is something I've already received permission from His Excellency, the Prime Minister, to ask. This is also a sign of love for the country. I hope you can understand.」

「This is absurd! What kind of crime have we committed!」

Minister Soleil then yells out in a hoarse voice. His entourage of merchants was utterly frightened, shaking and trembling in a corner of the room.

「…That's what I want to confirm. Right now, there are troops heading to your homes. If you have not done anything to be guilty of, they will be able to prove your innocence.」

Hearing Eagle's cold voice, Soleil turns blue. That's because, in his mansion, there are documents that will serve as evidence to show that he colluded with the merchants to pocket a large portion of the expenses.

「…What will happen to me then?」

Surely, it was Antoinette who was scowling at Eagle.

「You and I will have a little talk. It's about the repayment method for your gambling losses and also about the harem's future expenses too. Knights, respectfully escort them to the harem's quarters.」

In accordance with Eagle's instructions, the knights took the ladies.

Antoinette left with a mortified face.

「Then… Grand Knight Rudolf.」

「What do you want? I haven't violated any laws in particular.」

He puffed out his chest and roared in front of Eagle. Certainly, if a knight himself wrote an IOU note and paid payments based on that, even if it contains awful conditions like the loan will be interest-free, it is in no way illegal.

「Certainly, it doesn't say that it's illegal.」

「It is as you say.」

Rudolf had a triumphant face, but he paled in response to what Eagle said next.

「Even so, that would imply that you have become so poor you had to get the country to shoulder your debt, and that may also mean that the management of your territory isn't going too well. Originally, the territories you own are granted by the country, and you were entrusted with no more than the affairs of the state. That should mean this level of incompetence could serve as a perfect reason for a demotion.」

「I-I-I've never!」

Realizing Eagle's thoughts, Rudolf turned blue.

「As for the people who wrote the IOU, seize their territory for mismanagement. If anyone who chooses to oppose that, they will have their charges of rebellion changed to the death penalty for their entire family.」

To Eagle's cold words, the conceited great knight shuddered.

「P-please w-wwait a moment! I don't have any such intentions!」

「I cannot bear to part with the territory that has been handed down from my ancestors! Please reconsider!」

He hurriedly clung to Eagle's foot, but Eagle coldly brushed him off.

「Rejected. Since all of the money taken from the treasury that needs to be repaid has already been wasted, was it not?」

「T-that's!」

As he guessed correctly, the knights stuttered.

「…The great knight's territories will be seized. From this moment, from the lowest rank, you will be allowed to start anew.」

The knights hung their heads low, crestfallen at Eagle's words.

With this, he has succeeded in exterminating the three termites that were gnawing away at the country.

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 – «Steel Gold» Prime Minister

Afterwards, when [Eagle] Shylock called upon the powers of state as the prime minister, he tried to support the kingdom which was about to fall into financial ruin to the best of his ability.

As for the Minister of Trade and Finance, Soleil, who had been taking bribes, everything he possessed was confiscated and he fell to ruin. From hereon, all future festivities had their budget expenses drastically reduced.

Furthermore, those colluding merchants and their subordinates were all imposed with hefty fines and, as a result, suffered heavy losses.

Antoinette was confined inside the harem, and she was deprived of all the jewelry and dresses that she possessed. But it didn't stop there; the considerable treasures of the inner palace were also confiscated, and the budget of the harem was cut to ⅓ as well.

All the seized dresses and jewelry were auctioned off and the proceeds went directly into the treasury's coffers.

As for Rudolph and his subordinates who tried to push their debts onto the country, all of their territories were seized and they were only allowed to take a regular knight's pay, so many of them fell into ruin.

The knights' territories were reassimilated into the country, and some of the lands were decidedly sold off to certain wealthy nobles.

Thanks to these great reforms, in future generations he would come to be known as "«Steel Gold» Prime Minister Shylock of the Scythe". These times would become known as the restoration of Rostania kingdom.

However, the merchants had to pay large sums in reparations, the harem servants were laid off in order to reallocate funds to the restructuring, and the loss of their territories had incurred the knights' enmity.

Among these, because of the outcome, there would be some girls who would affect the world in a monumental way.

「Those Shylocks who arrested my father are detestable.」

「Antoinette-sama. I will absolutely take revenge for this.」

「Shit, those greedy moneylenders, I will never forgive them! I hate them for staining my virtuous father's pride as a knight!」

The hatred of these three girls would be incurred by a boy they will encounter.

Shylock Residence

In the room which had been prepared for the baby dragon Milky, two girls and a dragon were playing together.

「Now then, shall we play until mommy comes to put you to bed~」

「Kyui!」

In Rin's tender hug, Milky contently purred.

As its eyes came to close and gradually to sleep, there was a girl who barged in.

「…It's always Rin, how unfair!」

Forcibly taking it from Rin's arms was the girl who loved to nuzzle her cheeks with it, a daughter of the Shylock House and daughter of the Family-Manager* Gold, Ritone's tentative fiance, Nady Shylock.
[Daily: Essentially Ritone's assistant]

With Milky as her aim, she had often dropped in for a visit to the Shylock Castle.

「Gururururururu~」

From being disturbed of its sleep, Milky lets out a groan of displeasure.

「Nady-sama, it's bad for you to handle it so roughly like that. Hold it gently, and slowly rock it back and forth like that.」

「L-like this?」

Being taught by Rin she slowly rocks Milky, soothing it.

「Kurukurukuru…」

At first, Milky was growling, but then gradually became sleepy; its eyes closed, and it began to breathe like someone sleeping.

「Kawaii~」
[Enzou: kawaii is kawaii, yo.]

The two girls look at its face, sweetly smile, and laugh.

It was a really heartwarming scene.

At that moment, a door opens and a young beautiful woman with a large chest in revealing clothes enters.

「My beloved little baby. I've come! Now then, time for boobies.」

「Mother-sama, Milky… just went to sleep.」

Rin declared, and Mother looks at Milky who is in Nady's arms.

The baby dragon with its eyes closed seemed so happy.

Chapter 27

The Strongest Practice Partner

「Hmm… Well, there's no helping it. I'll have to wait until Milky wakes up.」

「Mother-sama, umm, please put your breasts away. It's embarrassing, you know.」

Rin flat out said it, her face looking somewhat uncomfortable.

「N-No. I want to be able to jump right into feeding my child as soon as possible…」

Though she gave an excuse, she still tucked her breasts away. For some reason, she was wearing some full-length and a rather risqué clothes of a leather fashion.

「For that matter, why are you wearing clothes like that anyway?」

Rin takes a good look at what she's wearing and appears puzzled.

「That boy, Ritone, had summoned these clothes from the other world I believe? When I saw them I became interested in them, and I found this outfit. Ritone said it looked very becoming on me I'll have you know.」

Being openly pleased with her clothes, Mother laughed. Certainly, because Mother appeared to be a young, beautiful and tall woman, she looked good in those clothes.

「Until my child wakes, I wonder if I should train that guy. What is Ritone doing, anyway?」

「He is working together with Gold-sama in the office. Onii-chan is really giving it his all.」

Rin answers proudly.

「Uh huh, Diligent is he? Despite being a brat, he's actually a busy guy.」

「Mother-sama… is it alright that you have relations with such a man?」

After muttering those words, Nady fell silent. She respected the legendary existence that was the Mother Dragon, but the girl seemed to dislike hearing about the circumstances that involved Ritone.

「Well, that boy is close to Milky as a father would be, and he is also my pupil. Moreover, he's been keeping up with his training well. Considering that he's just a human, he's got some guts!」

Not at all dissatisfied with the current state of things, Mother laughed.

Seeing this, Nady became steadily more jealous.

「Mother-sama, would you also instruct me in magic, please? I too would like to help protect Milky-chan.」

Nady requested so.

「Very well. The love you have for Milky is genuine then? Since I have time to waste, I'll teach you.」

And so, Mother proceeded to teach magic to Nady.

And once it became the afternoon, Milky woke up for breastfeeding, and Mother managed to catch Ritone after he left the office.

Without missing a beat, Ritone was dragged out to the courtyard where the knights did their training.

「Mother-sama! You appear to be in good spirits today!」

「Young master, please try your best not to die today!」

While being greeted by the knights, two people came out into the open area.

It was littered with dozens of craters.

「Since you managed at 30 meters above, today we'll do it from 40 meters.」

In the face of Mother's wicked laughter, Ritone realized it was futile to resist.

「H-haven't I already learned enough about falling from such heights? I've already more-or-less mastered the『Rising Dragon Cloud Fist』!

At Ritone insisting so, Mother, with wide eyes, gave him an incredulous look.

「What is this 'mastered' nonsense? You've just barely sampled the first taste of『Rising Dragon Cloud Fist』. Bastard what you have learned, was just the first stage called the『Strong Dragon Fist』.」

「Fuee!」

The technique that he struggled to death to learn, to be told it was only the beginning had shocked Ritone.

「B-but, if I'm only able to do it when falling, when I get in a pinch I'll be troubled. What

about combat training versus people or monsters too! T-that's right. I think I want to learn some combat training from the knights today.」

While desperately making excuses to save his own life, Ritone's head was clamped down upon by Mother.

「What idiocy are you on about? Fighting against a weaker partner… moreover, that you are able to fight the biggest and strongest opponent around, you should be thrilled!」

So saying this, higher and higher they flew.

「Hmm, "The strongest opponent" you say? 」

「Certainly, I am referring to the Earth. When compared to the Earth, things like the Maou or God are but little things. To be given the chance to go head-to-head against such an existence! You should feel honored!」

And with those words, from an altitude of 40 meters above ground, Ritone was thrust downwards and gathered momentum.

「Hiiiiiiii!! There's no way you can win a fight with the ground! This kind of collision practice, I hate iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit!」

Ritone crashed into the ground with great force. The crater count in the courtyard increased again by one.

Chapter 28

Demon Tribe's Mischief

Night

In the emptiness of the sky, a blue moon hangs aloft. On such occasions in a certain month there is a "Night of the Blue Moon," and on these nights, there is an increase in demonic activity.

The Demon Empress Kazarin sought out information on Ritone.

「This isn't good… This was outside of my calculations. Ritone obtained the mother dragon's divine blessing.」

Peering through the memory of a spy who had infiltrated the Shylock House, Ritone, who originally should have been weak, had gone through a surprising sudden growth.

「Ever since I've been awoken, as far as I've gone in trying to revive the Demon Emperor, there has only been a single "Night of the Blue Moon"… It's really vexing!」

Having been sealed, she grieved over the inability to move around freely.

「Still, all the more reason… Kufufu~. I'll make the Demon Prince awaken earlier than planned, and let him build up his power.」

Murmuring to herself, Kazarin headed north to the «Copper Rank» Lilliput Territory.

After several hours of flying in the sky, she arrived at her destination.

「… As usual, the land is *still* covered with holes.」

Overlooking the ground from the air, Kazarin mutters.

Here, back in the ancient era when the great war between the Demons and Humans occurred, on occasion, humans who disliked fighting came and built up a place with numerous dungeons as refuges.

Inside that place was a lone burning light. Many human beings inhabit it; it was the territory capital shelter.

The entrance to the constructed underground inner palace of the «Copper Rank» Lilliput territory is at the center of the palace square.

Kneeling down nearby, Kazarin prayed quietly.

「My brethren, one of the six demon princes, Tsuchigumo of the Land. In response to

my prayer, awaken!」

With a hand on the ground, she prayed for a short while.

Then, a section of the ground swelled, and a huge spider rose.

「Shuyuyuyuyuyuaaaaaaaaa」

The spider spat a thread as it tried to entangle Kazarin.

「Oops, though it just woke up, it's still lively.」

Kazarin, smiling wryly, flew up into the air.

「Hey, the opponent you need to defeat is over there. Don't make any mistake.」

Kazarin points towards the nearby entrance.

The huge spider entered into the hole.

«Copper Rank» Lilliput Territorial Capital [Shelter]

Many adventurers are currently meeting there.

「How about this? Take a look. Isn't it good material? It was taken from a Crystal Golem.」

In the center of the guild was a place where monster materials were being sold.

「I'd judge it to be…yeah. Worth about 1 aru.」

After being examined by the guild's receptionist who looked like a middle-schooler, they were ruthlessly told that.

「Oi oi, that alone by itself…」

「THAT is not crystal. It is something used in the production of windows called "Glass".」

「It was found out…?」

The adventurer backs out while scratching his head. Such things were normal sights throughout the city.

Here is a certain part of the city governed by a Dwarf Clan (Lilliput).

Many of the people who walk along the streets here look a lot like children.

Coincidentally, many try to make this district prosperous through their knowledge of smithing. Throughout the city, you can see smiths at work here and there, and extraordinarily good workings resound from each hammer's strike.

Adventurers, using this city as a home base, go around challenging all the local dungeons, wholeheartedly making their living by carrying back all the treasures and raw materials (drops) from the monsters who inhabit there. The city flourishes filled with so many people.

Located nearby the city's downtown location, there is a certain adventurer's guild.

For the purpose of establishing an information exchange at a tavern there, one of their teams were winding down.

「…I wonder if there are any good requests?」

While drinking alcohol, an Elf with a voluptuous body mutters.

She was called "White Princess Norn", an A-rank Adventurer.

「It can't be helped. It's been too peaceful lately.」

A musclebound Dwarf spat back.

「Mou, I've already gone and done all these other dungeons~. Completely dominated them all!」

With glasses and a red hood, there was a lilliput girl who was playing with a huge set of pliers and yawned.

「Well then, if you are that bored… would you like to do something 'fun' with me?」

A detestable blond-haired ikemen swordsman grabbed hold of Norn's hand, and it was driven away with a slap.

「Bad luck for you, I'm afraid. I'm already married. Unless you want to become my apprentice, *boy*.」

Being completely rejected, the ikemen's face had a depressed look..

Indeed, they are this world's 1.2 quarreling adventuring team "White Princess".

A Dwarven warrior and a Human swordsman; they were a strange group classified as a Dwarven Machinist and an Elven White Mage, and they had already conquered many dungeons to reach A-rank.

Chapter 29
Littlette Lilliput

「A married woman huh? Hey, hey, what is Norn-san's family like?」

The red-hooded little girl, Littlette, inquired.

「Ufufu. It's a secret~. But I have a daughter. One about the same age as you… ah, pardon my rudeness since you, a Lilliput, are already well over 20, aren't you?」

「Mou~ I've been waiting for a while already. By any chance has something interesting happened?」

From Norn's bag, a letter was taken out with a ridiculing laugh.

「What's that?」

「A letter from my daughter came. There may be a great adventure for us to embark on after this.」

Now that Norn expected something to happen, her eyes twinkled in anticipation.

Soon after, a gray-haired Lilliput came rushing into the Guild office.

「Big, big trouble!!! Help me!」

While ranting and raving inside, an uproar came from nearby.

「Huh? If it isn't gramps. What's going on?」

After assessing the situation, Littlette called out to him.

「Little-ojousama!!! I'm so glad!! Please spare me from having to come to this kind of place~!」

Out of concern I understand he's scared and worried, so perhaps worry or terror? he clings onto her.

「O-old man, calm down already. Speak properly! Did something bad happen?」

Borrowing a separate room in the guild, those gathered attentively listened to his detailed story.

「Huh? Even the lift to the house isn't working anymore?」

From listening to the grey haired old man's explanation, Littlette's eyes narrowed.

「T-that's how it is. Those of you who know of Ojou-sama also know that our «Copper Rank» Lilliput castle is located deep underground and is directly connected to the magical elevator which was constructed in the ancient past. However, while sealing off the area called "Ruins*" some kind of demon intruded and completely shut down the elevator!」

[Daily: Koujou コウジョウ has too many different meanings like a plant, mill, factory, castle ruins, but seeing they're in 'lilliput castle' we'll call it ruins for now until we get confirmation.]

The grey-haired butler of the «Copper Rank» Lilliput Family took a deep breath and then drank some water after explaining everything.

「No way! Well then, what about Otou-sama and everyone else?」

「Ah… that. The only ones able to escape to the surface were none but us, your retainers. As for the others of the «Copper Rank» Lilliput household… They seem to be trapped in the underground household area.」

In response to the butler's explanation, Littlette stood up.

「I must go help at once!」

As she appeared worried and about to take off, Norn pulled her back.

「Ahh, just hold on a moment. It's very likely that the demon there is quite strong. And trying to fight it by yourself might result in your defeat.」

「But Norn!」

Norn grabs Littlette, who's about to start crying.

「It'll be alright. Let's go after we prepare. Fufufu… Something like this is what I've been waiting for after all!」

Etched on Norn's face was the expectation of a great new adventure.

Several days later

At the «Gold Rank» Shylock house, an emissary from the «Copper Rank» Lilliput house had come to visit.

「It is a pleasure to meet you. I am called Ritone Shylock, the heir to the Shylock family.」

The guest visiting the acting feudal lord was offered a seat in the drawing room and was a sweet-looking high school girl wearing a gloomy face.

「It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance. I am «Copper Rank» Lilliput Family's Third Daughter, Littlette Lilliput. I appreciate you taking the time to answer my call despite my abrupt arrival at this hour.」

While trembling, she offers her gratitude. Her clothes were torn and her body was dirtied with some kind of bodily fluids.

In no way can she be thought of as the envoy of a neighboring territory.

In truth, she had been apprehended under the belief that she was a spy after loitering around Shylock castle, and Ritone hearing she was placed into the dungeon, hurried to bring her out and meet with her.

「Please, go ahead with your story. I'll order us some tea.」

Suggesting she sit, Ritone called over to Rin to handle the preparations to serve them.

However, the girl shook her head as if not wanting to waste even a single second.

「I'd first like to ask of Ritone-sama if this letter here was in fact written by you to Norn?」

Removing the letter from between her bosom, she handed a crumpled letter over to Ritone.

「Yes, this was certainly the letter I wrote to Norn-sama, advising her to be cautious.」

Looking over it, Ritone confirmed that the one who wrote it was indeed him.

Chapter 30
Not a Hero

「How could you know our territory would be in crisis! You are likely the one who instigated Tsuchigumo to attack our household! Because of you, Norn-sama… used every single antidote and every instant recovery elixir that we had prepared, the only one who escaped from there was me…」

Suddenly, Littlette, while still crying, pulls out some pliers from her pocket and took a stab at Ritone.

At that very moment, Ritone felt an immense threat.

However, Ritone calmly replied.

「…Doing something like that, how would that benefit our house?」

「T-that is… To snatch away my family's territory…」

「Assuming for the moment that was the case, then what of the warning?」

「W-well…」

Littlette was at a loss for words.

「As for White Princess Norn, she is my fiancee's mother. And that is why I went so far as to warn her. However, I am honestly surprised that the activity of the Demon Tribe has begun already… I thought this event wouldn't happen until much later…」

「"This event"!? What exactly do you know about it!?」

Once more Littlette becomes heated.

「I don't know whether or not you will believe this, but I have undertaken a mission from the Goddess Verdandi.」

Ritone starts speaking about what he knows.

「No way… From here on the Demon Lord and the Six Demon Princes are reviving and plan to attack the world….」

After hearing everything, Littlette was stunned for a short while.

「From the foresight of the Goddess, of the Six Demon Princes, Tsuchigumo was

supposed to appear last as the strongest one. And the hero, in cooperation with you, was supposed to defeat it, thereby coming into the possession of the “Pearl of the Land”. Using that, they could restore the legendary ship “Pegasus Wing”…」

「Enough already! Are you looking down on me with such a bullshit story!?」

Finally, Littlette became so angry that she left her seat.

「Hold it. Where do you think you are going?」

「I thought if I came here I might’ve learned something, however, it was a waste of time. I’ll rescue everyone by myself. I don’t need any hero!」

And so, she hurriedly went and left the castle.

Ritone, left alone sitting on a sofa, sighed.

「Well, who would believe such a story anyway? It’s not like this world is the game. The crisis happening to her family is real, and if I had treated it just like an event I’d probably become angry too.」

Even if he reflects on what was said, Ritone still wouldn’t know what he should do in this situation.

But the thing bothering him the most was the knowledge that the revival of the Demon Tribe was not advancing in accordance with what he knew.

At that moment, the door to the room opened, and Nady came inside.

「…So mother really went and let herself get captured by a Demon?」

Nady had the look on her face like she would burst into tears at any moment.

「Oh, did you overhear that? Yes, unfortunately, that’s what happened.」

Nady became silent when Ritone said that.

「…It happened exactly as you said it would. I’m sorry I didn’t believe you before.」

For a short while, Nady bowed her head in apology.

「…No, it’s fine. It was just a prophecy, it’s natural to think it ridiculous until it happens.」

「Then I’ll believe in what you said just now. Therefore, what should I do? If we seek the assistance of the hero, then we can save my mother, right?」

She clung onto Ritone, desperately awaiting an answer. However, Ritone slowly shook his head from side to side.

「I'm sorry to disappoint you, but right now our hero is merely a commoner. Even if we relied on the hero, he probably could not rescue her from Tsuchigumo.」

「No way! Then, then what if…」

Nady was in a state of grief, and Ritone was still in thought.

After a while, with a plop, a hand rested on Nady's head.

「If I abandon Norn and the «Copper Rank» Liliput family here, then it could cause two of the heroines I need to capture to dislike me. I guess I'll go. But I certainly won't like it.」

Looking at Ritone, whose face showed that he really hated the idea, Nady's face also seemed pained.

「You don't have to put on any airs about helping me. Also, don't try and capture us so selfishly. Such a calculating person is what I truly detest. Besides, can you even call someone who abandons a person in trouble a hero anyways?」

「It's unfortunate, but I'm not a hero at all. But for the sake of obliging my heroines, I will go fight against the Demon Prince. Therefore, if I am able to help your mother, then you should be grateful and fall in love with me.」

Ritone laughs jokingly at the sad state of affairs.

「Idiot!」

And so, Nady slapped Ritone.

Chapter 31
Necessary Item

「Well… if one wants to fight the Demon Prince, then there's an item that's absolutely necessary. I'm being serious.」

While grumbling, Ritone entered Milky's room.

Upon his sight, Mother was nursing Milky.

「You idiot! You should at least knock first!」

「Ex-excuse me!」

Ritone hurriedly left the room, as it seemed like Mother was about to get angry.

「… Whatever. So, what do you want?」

Ritone tried asking Mother about Tsuchigumo's poison.

「Does master happen to know about such symptoms?」

He discussed the symptoms of Tsuchigumo's poison that would arise in humans, something which he had heard about from Littlette.

「In fact, I do know about that poison. It's actually a magical virus. Though the only thing that can oppose it is the immune system.」

「So how can we cure it then?」

Shortly after, Mother puffed out her bountiful chest and confidently declared.

「… The milk of the Dragon King's mother, so my milk.」

(As expected… the hero from that crude game must have obtained the fluids from mother by doing xxx to her. What am I supposed to do!)
[Daily: Don't ask me… >.>]

Hearing that, Ritone was at a loss for words.

「So what will you do? Don't tell me you want my milk, because I haven't got any for you.」

The mother smirked while standing in a daunting pose with her arms crossed in front of her chest.

Instinctively, the figure of the handsome man became timid. Things weren't looking

good after all.

「… Master, if I manage to land a blow, then you must let me squeeze out some of your milk.」

「Fine. Only if you can land a blow that is.」

In the room, a fierce fight had unfolded.

「… Thank you for waiting.」

While Nady and Rin were waiting in front of the mansion, Ritone, who was in tatters, appeared before them.

A bruise had formed on his face, and his right hand was enveloped in a triangle bandage. His left foot was fractured, so he needed to use crutches.

「Onii-chan, are you alright?」

Rin rushes over and cures him.

「… What did you do? Even if you fought against a demon, you wouldn't receive these kinds of injuries.」

On the other hand, Nady was coldly staring at Ritone.

「… I received this from my Master.」

Saying that, he takes out the PET plastic bottle. Inside, it contained some white liquid.

「This is?」

「It raises immunity, so this medicine can counter Tsuchigumo's poison. I almost died to get this.」

With those words, Ritone swallows just a drop. The pain he felt from his body lightened.

「Rin, Nady, both of you take a sip too.」

He handed the PET bottle over to Rin, and as she drank a mouthful, her face surprisingly turned bright.

「Nwa~ Milk is very delicious. Gulp~ Gulp~」

Rin, who liked the milk, purrs with great relish.

「F-fool! You drank too much! AHH」
[Daily: Orz]

When he snatched it back in a hurry, it was already almost gone.

The remaining drops were left for Nady, and now it’s empty.

「… There is no helping it, just wait a bit longer.」

Ritone’s shoulders drooped, and he entered the mansion.

When he returned an hour later, again he had suffered injuries which left him half-dead.

Chapter 32

Chapter 32 – Spider Dungeon

«Copper Ranked» Lilliput House

The nobles of this house are said to be the successors and inheritors of the magical civilization which had flourished in ancient times.

In the center of the Territorial Capital Shelter, there was a dungeon made by the people who fled the last war—a refuge; in that dungeon, the Lilliput tribe had escaped and hid themselves away from the demon tribe.

As for the leader of the clan, even now they still live in the lowest level of the shelter, rarely coming out and onto the ground.
[Enzou: coming out to the surface?]

And as for the above ground mansion, it is the home for those descendants of the Lilliput clan who have traveled out from the lower shelter.

In the topside mansion, among all of the relatives of the feudal lord to return, was an eccentric young girl.

「Grandfather! Has the magical elevator been repaired?」

The third daughter of the feudal lord, a girl who went out above ground to become an adventurer, Littlette, listens for the answer.

「No… when looking at the shaft, all you can see is it blocked up by some tough spider thread. That devil seems to have gone all the way to the lower stratum from this point.」

After hearing that, the silver-haired butler could only shake his head sadly.

「So… The elevator is blocked up with thread. Then it seems after all that you're going to have to pass through the industrial area.」

「That's dangerous! That area has automaton-golems running wild all through it!

The butler frantically tries to dissuade the idea.

They are residing in the "Spider Dungeon". Originally, it was the shelter that possessed the most expansive area .

However, 400 years ago when the demons invaded, and because of that, golems were employed to repel the demons, it came to be that they would run wild even when being manipulated.

Unavoidably, the elevator which was a direct line to the surface had to be abandoned due to it being sealed off from the lowest level housing area.

「I understand already… *mou*, you are all idiots like pops! Even if those dangerous golems are wandering around upside down on their heads, if they cannot throw away the housing area because it's convenient, then they can all stay shut-in there then! That way you can say the talks went sour and that's why I left!」

Getting tired of dealing with her shut-in relatives, she went outside into the open air of the world and stamped her feet in frustration.

「There's no way. After all, master didn't like the outside world because of how unruly it was.」

The butler smiled wryly.

「Can't be helped, I will have to go alone! It'll be fine. When I was fighting together with Norn, I've generally come to understand the weak point of the golems anyway.」

Saying that, before the butler had time to stop her, she entered the dungeon.

After several hours, Littlette enters the dungeon while Ritone and company arrive at the mansion.

「Excuse me, is Littlette-san here?」

As soon as Ritone had descended from the coach, he asked the butler.

「In trying to help her family, Ojou-sama has entered into the industrial area. However, we are still very concerned about her… even now there has been no sound indicating she has turned back.」

The butler seemed to be a bit on edge waiting for a reply.

「That's bad news… However, there might still be time. Rin, Nady, let's go!」

「Yeah!」

「Let's rescue mother!」

And so, the three of them that made up Ritone's party, went and entered the Spider Dungeon.

Chapter 33

Chapter 33 – First Adventure

「As expected of an A-rank adventurer. We're almost at the final dungeon, and even though strong monsters are appearing, they're being defeated.」

Ritone murmured as they continued further through the dungeon.

Along the well-paved, concrete floor, there were incomprehensible machine-like monsters lying broken and scattered around.

In the surrounding area, there were some kind of manufacturing instruments lined up.

「This, I've never seen anything like this. Some type of a slime maybe?」

Before long, Rin picked one up with her head tilted in confusion. The golem was 30 cm in diameter, both round and flat.

「I've read about something like this before. It's a D-rank monster『Rumban*』.」
[Daily: Something like a cleaner robot.]

Nady explained.

「…So this is D-rank! Its power rivals a Holy Knight's that has received a blessing from God, as expected of a high-level dungeon.」

Just as Ritone said that, a flat shadow suddenly appeared.

「Intruder—Identified—Eliminate.」

The instant that the mechanical voice spoke, a **shakin** sound accompanied sharp blades protruded from the edges of the disc.

「Crap! Both of you hide behind me!『Strong Dragon Fist』Release!」

Protecting Rin and Nady, he released his Ki at full power.

The next moment, the Rumban made a gyuuiiiin sound and started to attack.

「D-damn it! Be obedient!」

Ritone was desperately holding the Rumban back as its rotating blades scratched him.

Even if his defense was on par with full-plate armor, as it was, it would soon break through and cut him in half.

「Leave it to me!『Water Ball!』」
From behind, Rin waved her staff and engulfed the Rumban in a water ball.
Letting out a *_poof_* sound, the Rumban stopped moving.

「You saved me… certainly the natural enemy of electric appliances is water. If you use water, then usually they'll short out and break. Good job!」

「Ehehe…amazing? Somehow… I'm overflowing with power from that milk.」

Rin was feeling happy that Ritone praised her, but suddenly Nady shouted out a warning.

「Careful! We're surrounded!」

Before they realized it, lots of Rumbans had gathered from every direction.

「Shit! This is bad!」

Immediately, Ritone gathered Rin and Nady, lifting them onto his shoulders.

Thanks to Mother Dragon's training, he had leveled up. He could now easily carry the two girls on his shoulders.

However, at his feet, there was a great number of Rumbans, and they were grinding and shaving away his defensive barrier.

「Ow! Rin hurry!」

「Ok!『Water Slider』」

Rin waved her wand, and a massive amount of water gushed forth, centered on Ritone and soaking all the Rumbans.

Like that, they were barely able to continue forward.

After that they were chased around by refrigerator-shaped golems, trapped in a room that worked like a microwave, and attacked by human and dog shaped metallic golems.

「Ei!」

The featureless human-shaped golem that was attacking was hit by Ritone and had a hole opened in its chest.

「『Water Spear!』」

Rin aimed her water spear at that very hole and skewered it. The human-shaped golem shorted out and fell over.

「Both of you are amazing!」

Seeing them work together to defeat the golems, Nady was amazed.

「Ehehe. Actually, I've been training my magic with Mother. So I can protect Milky-chan.」

Rin let out a carefree laugh. Even before that she had the makings of a first class magician.

「…I've got to work hard too.」

Just as Nady fired herself up, there was a **hyururu** sound, and a number of flying type golems appeared.

「What are those?」

They looked kind of like video cameras with little helicopter blades on top as they floated in the air.

The very next instance, the camera let out a **kyun** sound and hit Ritone with a beam of light.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 34

Chapter 34 – Mother's Divine Protection

「Uwah!」

It easily pierced through the『Strong Dragon Fist's』barrier and then through Ritone's shoulder.

「E-everyone hide!」

They panicked as they hid in the shadow of a nearby machine.

The golem with the camera-shaped barrel revealed a number of wings from its body and flitted around in the air.

It flew about as if it was keeping watch of the surrounding area.

「I give up…it seems like some kind of a drone and laser combo.」

In Japan, this type of thing would be generally known as a drone according to Aviation Laws, but it seems to be a thing that this Ancient Civilization commonly used.

「It can't be helped.『Summons』」

He waved the wand he brought, but the attack missed the flying golem without even touching it.

「Damn! My magic control is a problem… it looks like I haven't trained enough.」

Right now they had no method of fighting enemies that could fly.

At that moment, Ritone remembered something.

「Rin, can you create some fog?」

「I can.『Water Mist』」

Steam welled out of the wand in Rin's hand and spread out within the room.

In the blink of an eye, the surroundings were shrouded by mist, and it was practically impossible to see anything.

「Alright. With this, we'll be concealed and the laser's power should be decreased. Everyone, time to crawl forward.」

With Ritone at the front, they began to crawl forward on all fours.

As the laser drones had lost their targets, they started to wander around.

「Alright. I wonder if we can make it to the exit like this…」

Ritone was thinking optimistically, but a heartless voice rang out.

「Target lost. Switching to Defense Mode」

The laser drones gathered in front of the stairs leading down and sealed the exit.

When Ritone saw that, he ground his teeth.

「Damn it! Since it's like this let's go for it.「Summ-」」

「Wait!」

As Ritone was waving his wand to summon near the drones, Nady stopped him.

「If you do something like that, then we'll get attacked at close range and be screwed (destroyed).」

「But…」

「I'll see if I can do something about it.」

Nady started to cast a spell.

「I am an apostle of darkness. All paths lead towards the sublime darkness.『Dark Ice』」

A dark shadow came out of Nady's wand and covered the drones.

From the darkness, a creaking sound could be heard and then thumping sounds soon followed.

「… I did it. Turned out alright.」

Nady wiped cold sweat off of her forehead. The drones had been frozen and had fallen to the ground.

「That's terrific. It's a collaboration between mist and ice huh? Like this we can defeat enemies that float in the air.」

Ritone said in admiration.

「Fufu. Somehow it feels like power is welling up within me. It might be because of that milk. We've gotten the Mother's Divine Protection.」

Nady laughed with a flushed face.

「I'm sure that's what it is. I also felt that I'm stronger than before.」

「Our combo is invincible.」

Nady and Rin clasped each other's hands in delight.

「And me?」

Ritone spoke with a lonely and appealing tone, and Nady looked at him coldly.

「You're a shield. You buy us time to use our magic to defeat the enemies.」

「…ok.」

From then on, the dungeon exploration consisted of Ritone acting as their shield to draw the enemies, Rin covering them with water magic, and Nady freezing them to disable them. Their teamwork went smoothly as they continuously conquered the Spider Dungeon that was by all rights meant to be the last one.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 35

Chapter 35 – Solitude

Ritone's group went down to the lower floor.

Although one girl was covered in wounds, they still proceeded further.

「Kyu-!」

For some reason, this golem, that had sunglasses on and looked like a macho-man, fired away with a large machine gun.

「 … Ku, *"The glasses are its weak point"*.」

The girl—Littlette was hidden in the shadows and wasn't able to move.

「Haa, haa… What's with this thing?! It wasn't like this at the time when I was here with Norn's group!」

She still complained while hidden. The Golems were only about D-rank when they first arrived in the dungeon, but suddenly a strong one appeared.

「What's the use, nobody is going to save me even if I complain. It's fine, I'll just have to help my companions by myself then.」

The shining glasses, she found the Golem weak point.

「… An external power type. If that's the case… it's over there!」

Looking back, she returned to the entrance floor.

Examining the floor carefully, she discovered suspicious screws.

「Have to hurry… He's here!『Freeform Tool』, transform!」

The pliers in her hands changed into a driver.

Sensing the Macho Golem approaching her from behind, she desperately turned the screws.

「All right, it came off!」

A part of the floor open when the screws were removed. Opening it up, a button could be seen inside.

「That thing should stop with this… Guh!」

Suddenly, pain ran through her right hand as it bled.

As she looks back, the Macho Golem caught up to her, immediately aimed, and shot at her.

It seemed like she'd faint from the overwhelming pain.

「Like hell I will lose… I… I will save everyone!」

Still able to move her left hand, she used as much strength as she could muster to press the button.

「EMERGENCY STOP」

The Macho Golem stopped with its gun pointed straight at Littlette.

「Haa… Haa… I did it.」

Littlette dropped to the ground feeling relieved.

Tying up her right hand with the bandage she brought, she drank a potion which stopped the bleeding.

「Uu… Uuu… Why is it like this…」

Sitting alone in a dark area, the dread and loneliness seemed to be creeping in.

「Can I truly save everyone… With this, I have already exhausted my potions.」

Since she came here alone, she has already been injured many times, exhausting all of her healing potions on hand.

「Do I turn back now… But…」

Until now, the way she had been fighting was the basics of avoiding engagements and running away all while poking at their weak points until they stopped moving.
[Daily: she was basically kiting the mobs.]

Even if she turned back, she wouldn't be able to avoid fighting against a large group of machine golems.
She wasn't confident that she would be able to return safely to the surface.

「It can't be helped that I'm hesitating. Let's go. On the final floor, that's where she should be.」

Littlette's feelings started to change as she descended down the stairs to the final floor.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 36

Chapter 36 – Successful Rescue

Ritone's group was watching with admiration as the golem's movements being suspended.

「It seems like Littlette already came this far. However, it also seems like she had survived the fight.」

Ritone shivered as he looked at the powerful-looking Macho Golem. Because of its size and its machine gun, even if he had infinite lives, he thought it still wouldn't be enough.

「There's a button here, was its movement stopped with this?」

Rin squatted down as she pointed at a section of the floor.

「… I see. It's an emergency stop system in case they ever run wild. It'd be foolish to straight up fight it.」

Ritone became discouraged upon remembering the fights up until now.

「… Leaving that aside, let's hurry. She's injured.」

Nady said as she looked at the floor. There are traces of blood scattered from where she moved around the floor.

「We can't hang around here. Let's hurry onward.」

The three advanced to the industrial area's final floor.

The last floor seemed to be a warehouse. A large number of finished golems could be seen sleeping in boxes.

In addition, there were various electronics which resembled household appliances, with canned goods and other provisions arranged on the shelves.

「It's quiet…」

Looking around, Ritone muttered.

Tsuchigumo isn't so careless as to let either Littlette or the moving golems be.

「Over there's the magical elevator platform. It seems to be a wide area.」

Nady said as she examined the map drawn on the wall.

「That's what it says.」

The three advanced inside.

「This is... incredible.」

A gigantic hole has been blown through the magical elevator all the way up until the surface.

At the bottom there is an enormous spider building a nest.

「Shaaaaa.」

While raising a cry, it spat out a white thread from its butt.

On the nest there were many groups of people scattered about.

「This… is…」

「Mn, it is.」

The three nodded after exchanging glances. Within the closest group there was some sort of a person bundled up, wearing a red hood.

「For now, let's help them. 『Summon』!」

Aiming at the person's form, Ritone waved his wand. Then, a girl with glasses appeared.

「Littlette-san, please hold on!」

Even with Rin shaking her, Her white eyes had been giving no sign of a reaction.

On the nape of her neck, there was a mark of being stung by an insect, and the area around it had turned green.

「This is bad… She's been poisoned. If we don't cure it… Tch! Hey!」

Tsuchigumo, taking notice of its prey being stolen, approached fiercely.

Going straight for Ritone's party, it opened its mouth.

「Damn! 『Dragon Shield』」

Coinciding with the spider spitting out digestive fluids, he set up a barrier for cover.

「SHAAAAA」

Tsuchigumo, angry he was defended against, turned its rear end towards them and shot out a thread..

「Crap!」

The thread coiled around the barrier as if to cover it completely.

「This is bad! Retreat!」

Ritone’s group, carrying Littlette, retreated to the previous floor.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 37

Chapter 37 – Self-introductions

「Littlette! Wake up please!」

「Open your eyes!」

As they shook off Tsuchigumo's pursuit, Ritone and the other two nursed Littlette after escaping to the upper floor.

However, the girl who was struck by a paralyzing poison still hadn't moved as if she had passed away.

「…It can't be helped… According to the instructions, I should feed it to her mouth-to-mouth…」

When I was about to take off the cap of the PET bottle containing milk, Nady, who was next to me, snatched it away.

「You disgusting monkey. I'll do it.」

Just like that, Littlette started drinking the Mother's milk as it was transferred to her from Nady's mouth.

「Goho!」

As soon as she drank it, her sickly complexion gradually returned to normal, and the venom was later spat out along with a coughing fit.

「…That's good. You're still alive.」

「…Who?」

When Littlette saw me staring at her white skin, while feeling relieved from the bottom of my heart, she tilted her head in puzzlement.

「Oh. Rin-chan and Nady-chan? Was it you who saved me? Thank you.」

After the two introduced themselves to Littlette, she replied with a bow whilst giving her gratitude.

「No, it's not that big of a deal.」

「… It's only natural to help a comrade of my mother.」

Rin was feeling shy while Nady blushed as she answered for some reason.

「Err… I'm here too though…」

「Kthx.」

Though Ritone tried to appeal that he also helped, Littlette didn't put much effort into her response.

「F-first of all, shouldn't we withdraw for now? We were able to save you, but you haven't fully regained your strength yet, and that's the same for us too. To begin with, taking on one of the strongest Six Demon Princes in your first battle as an ordinary person is a grave mistake… Let's leave it to the hero, who will be an adult in a few years, to defeat it.」

To the Ritone who feared Tsuchigumo's strength, Nady and Littlelette shook their heads in disapproval at his suggestion.

「…Useless. We haven't even rescued my mother yet.」

「Not only my companions, my family in the «Copper Rank» Lilliput Family were also detained. Now is my only chance to save them.」

Hearing such an honorable declaration, Ritone felt bad.

「Well… these kinds of things… isn't it the duty of the hero to fight against the Six Demon Princes though…」

For Ritone to chicken out at this point in time, Nady and Littlette coldly glared at him in response.

「You can leave if you're scared. Because even if I'm alone, I'll still fight against that thing.」

「… I'll fight as well. A non-hero coward can stay out of it.」

After the pair of them said that, Ritone finally caved in.

「… I get it already. I'll fight too.」

To Ritone who reluctantly agreed, Rin merely cheered.

「It's alright. My Onii-chan is strong. We can beat a guy like that up!」

Seeing Rin laughing innocently, Ritone's heart stirred up.

(That's right. Even though I'm not a hero, I'm Rin's older brother. I shouldn't show any

of my bad points to my younger sister. However, how exactly should we fight that guy…)

While desperately pondering about what they should do, the immobilized Macho Golem caught his eye.

「This golem was originally the boss of this dungeon. That means that it should be pretty damn strong. Then… an eye for an eye, a boss for a boss.」

Ritone was finally able to come up with a strategy that could oppose Tsuchigumo.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 38

Chapter 38 – Boss vs Boss

「Alright, push the button.」

As Ritone said that, Littlette prepared herself and pushed the start button.

Then, the eyes of the Macho Golem began to shine red.

「*… Rebooting… Enemy Extermination Mode…*」

Before the Macho Golem began to move, Ritone waved his wand towards the ground.

「Summoned Floor!」

The very next moment, a hole in the ground opened up and the Macho Golem fell to the lower floor.

After a while, a gunshot followed by a terrible scream was heard from the lower floor.

「*Kill you!*」

「*Shaaaaaaa!*」

As Ritone's group carefully listened while searching for signs of battle, the fight between the bosses suddenly commenced.

They left the stairs and headed for the elevator shaft.

While proceeding down to the lower floor, they cut apart the threads that stood in their way.

Elevator Room

「Listen well, the spider's thread has a warp and a sticky weft. Don't touch the weft.」

Ritone warned Nady and Littlette.

While Rin was waiting upstairs, the three followed the warp down the elevator hall.

When they reached the deepest area of the factory floor, they saw a huge nest that Tsuchigumo had spread below.

「That thing is fighting the Golem, right?」

Nady pointed towards the warehouse, and the dreadful sounds of battle could be heard from there.

「Can the golem defeat that thing?」

Littlette questions uneasily.

「I'm not sure. However, while it's fighting, let's rescue Norn-san and the others.」

While the two major bosses were fighting, they descended along the warp to the center of the nest while concealing their presences.

「But, what should we do from here? It's impossible to help them without touching the weft.」

Looking around, Nady despaired.

Distant from the center, there were human-shaped cocoons that they couldn't reach.

「If you use your summoning magic…」

「It's impossible to use anymore, I've already used considerable magic power by coming here. If I summon them one by one, I'll faint from magic depletion, and if that thing returns, I can't fight back.」

Ritone calmly reasoned and denied Littlette's thoughts.

「Then, how!?」

「I'll handle it, summoning『Cardboard from a Different World』!」

When Ritone waved his wand, a large mass of cardboard appeared.

「Is this fine? Crush it like this and make your way to the cocoon.」

After the cardboard was flattened, he placed it on the spider web.

Thus, a path was opened, and they finally arrived at the place where the human-shaped cocoons were piled up.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 39

Chapter 39 – Crisis

「Mother!」

Eventually, Nady screamed out when she saw a wand sticking out of one of the human-shaped cocoons.

Ritone hastily stopped her as she tried to cling onto it.

「It's alright! She's not going to die!」

「But!」

「I feel that White Princess Norn is safe. Therefore, it's alright.」

He comforted the frantic Nady who had lost her cool.

「… I understand.」

When Nady settled down after a while, Ritone and the girls retrieved the human-shaped cocoons and carried them to the upper floor.

「… Good. This should be the last one. Did we make it in time…?」

With the last cocoon retrieved, Ritone felt relieved. He had no intention to fight against the Six Demon Prince. After saving Norn's group, he'll quickly run away.

「I'll leave the collection of the "Earth Orb" to the hero for when he becomes an adult. At any rate, since the airborne fortress* [Pegasus Wing] is being kept under there, even if we leave it alone, the hero will come. Ah, but since Tsuchigumo will spend several years without food, he should be starving to death.」
[Daily: 飛空挺 not quite sure]

While thinking about that convenient matter, they carried the last cocoon to the upper floor, but out of nowhere, the warp suddenly shook.

「W-what!?」

「Kya!」

Because of the huge tremor, Nady had fallen and got stuck to the nest.

「Ritone-kun! There!」

Littlette paled and pointed towards the warehouse. Tsuchigumo was there, swinging threads of its nest.

「That thing… Damn! Just a little more and we would've been done!」

Ritone ground his teeth in vexation. Tsuchigumo had a considerably hard time bringing down the Macho Golem, three of its eight legs were missing. There were also holes on its body, and its movements were dull too.

Still, it approached Nady, its eyes seething with hatred.

「W-we must escape quickly.」

「No! I won't!」

Nady was entangled on the sticky weft, unable to move.

Aiming at Nady, Tsuchigumo approached while clacking its mouth, ready to bite.

Nady calls out to the two people up top.

「But!」

「Tell the hero-sama… that I wanted to fight alongside him.」
[7th: No, you don't want to fight together with that genocide child- murdering idiot.]

With her body stiffened tightly, she forced a smile to the two people.

With its mouth agape, Tsuchigumo started to spit its digestive juices to eat Nady.

「Goodbye… Mother! 」

Eyes forcefully closed, Nady resigned herself.

Conquering Hero's Heroines Chapter 40

Chapter 40 – But I'm not a Hero

「……?」

Eyes closed, a minute passed by, but she didn't feel anything.

「… What…?」

Timidly, Nady opened her eyes, and there before her stood a man's sturdy back.

「… Hero-sama?」

Thinking that it was the hero she so yearned for, she timidly called out.

「Didn't I say that I'm not a hero! Full throttle!『Dragon Macho』!」
[Daily: ドラゴンマッチョ… I know…]

The masculine voice was familiar. The disgusting man who forcefully tried to make himself her fiancé. Though Mother's divine protection was obtained, the Cowardly—Ritone wasn't going to fight against the Demon Prince.

That kind of man jumped down intentionally to protect her.

「… Why?…」

「I don't know- Shit! Hurry! I can't hold on for long!」

Ritone yelled out as his clothes split apart from his temporary buff.

Desperately, he released all of his Ki to form a barrier in front of him so he could defend against the digestive fluids.

「… Good grief. This is troublesome.」

Littlette came down and tried to cut the threads binding Nady with her nippers.

「And you…」

「Despite those instances, aren't we a party? As the White Princess Norn said, "A true adventurer doesn't abandon his companions even in extreme situations." I am an adventurer.」

With great difficulty, the threads restraining Nady were cut.

「I did it!」

「Go! I'll defeat this thing somehow!」

Nady shifted her eyes to Ritone, and for the first time, she saw a hero.

(Damn… I tried to look good, did it work?)

While thinking, he desperately exerted his willpower.

(Think! A spider's body is soft! That means there has to be something that can crush it! Something hard and solid, like the Grandpa "Rock"!)
[Daily: Probably talking about a famous giant boulder, it's shaped like a dick… yeah.. don't ask me]

Frantically, he remembered the trash he could summon from another world. With great difficulty, he remembered something convenient.

「That's right! Abide by my will! Scrap from the other world!」

In desperation, he chanted and something appeared from the sky.

Falling with great force, it plunged into the spider's soft back.

「Shaaaaa!」

Being crushed by the object, Tsuchigumo cried in pain.

「What is that?」

Seeing the object that crushed Tsuchigumo, Littlette tilted her head in puzzlement.

「It's a car which played an active part in my previous existence. I summoned this broken and abandoned object. This type is called a "Trailer Truck".」

A gigantic broken 10-ton truck, filled with rust, was summoned on the spider.

If such a car appeared on its back, even if it was the strongest of the Six Demon Princes or Tsuchigumo, they wouldn't be able to move.

Tsuchigumo who was crushed, squirmed and twitched while it bled green .

「I-I did it… Hahaha… Gaku-」

Exhausting all his willpower and magic, Ritone collapsed.

Littlette harshly scolded him.

「Look at that! Trying to show off, and stand till the end. Aren't you a hero?」

「I told you, I'm not a hero, I'm just a weak young noble…」

Smiling wryly, he borrowed Littlette's shoulder and turned to the warp.

At that moment, the web on the floor suddenly inclined.

「Eh?」

「No way, that's…」

Turning around, they saw that Tsuchigumo's tough web couldn't endure the weight of the truck and was rapidly sinking.

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